

THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING & DRAMATIC



No. 309.—VOL. XII.

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TRANSMISSION ABROAD.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1879.

PRICE SIXPENCE
By Post 6½d.



MISS EDITH BLANCHE, OF THE ROYALTY THEATRE.

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"HOLLY LEAVES,"

THE
Christmas Number
OF THE

ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS.

Contains a fac-simile copy, in 17 COLOURS, of a PAINTING by GEO. A. HOLMES, entitled

"FIRM FRIENDS."

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SEEING THE OLD FOLKS HOME. By H. T. WILSON.
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THE HOLLY LAPLANDER. By A. W. STURTT.
PEACE AND WAR. By DAVIDSON KNOWLES.
A CHRISTMAS DREAM. By H. FURNISS.
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Forty Pages of Pictures, Tales, & Poems.

The whole enclosed in an ENAMELLED WRAPPER, beautifully printed in GOLD and COLOURS from an entirely new and appropriate Design.

NOTICE.—The Publisher begs to inform intending purchasers that the Christmas Number can only be obtained of Newsagents and the Railway Bookstalls, being quite out of print at the Publishing Office.

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	From Glasgow.	From Liverpool.
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BRITANNIA	Jan. 10	Jan. 17.

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ALEXANDRA PALACE.—ON BOXING DAY, FRIDAY NEXT, besides the Pantomime (at Three), ADAMS'S GREAT CIRCUS at 2, 4, 6, and 8. Splendid Company, with Stud of 20 Horses and Ponies.

GRAND MILITARY CONCERT, at 7.0, under the direction of Mr. Dan Godfrey.

"THE LOST CHORD," with Organ accompaniment, and other popular Pieces, concluding with JULIEN'S BRITISH ARMY QUADRILLES, the Marching of Troops, Firing of Guns, &c.

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NOTE.—On SATURDAY NEXT, besides Pantomime, Assault-at-Arms, under Professor Hundreds and Promenade Concert under Mr. D. Godfrey, Special Circus, &c.

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Admission, as usual, One Shilling.

THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—MERCHANT OF VENICE. EVERY EVENING, at Eight o'clock, until further notice. Shylock, Mr. Irving. Portia, Miss Ellen Terry.
MORNING PERFORMANCES EVERY SATURDAY at Two o'clock, until further notice. Box Office open 10 to 5, where seats can be booked six weeks in advance.

THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.—Messrs. A. and S. GATTI beg to announce that their second Grand Christmas Pantomime, entitled **SINDBAD THE SAILOR**, will be produced on BOXING NIGHT, Dec. 26. Morning performances, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, commencing Saturday morning Dec. 27, at Two. Box-office open daily from ten to five. No booking fees.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.
Manager, Mr. WALTER GOOCH.
A complete success.—Every evening at 7.45, DRINK. Preceded at 7 by LOCKED-OUT. Box-office open from 10 to 5. Doors open 6.30, commence at 7.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. A. and S. GATTI.—On FRIDAY and SATURDAY NEXT, at 7, EAST LYNNE, at 8.45, NICHOLAS NICKLEBY. Messrs. Henry Neville, J. G. Taylor, E. H. Brooke, R. Pateman, F. W. Irish, A. Greville, H. Cooper, and J. Fernandez. Mesdames Bella Pateman, Lydia Foote, A. Mellon, Harriet Coveney, Maria Harris, Emma Heffer, Jenny Rogers, and Clara Jecks. Stage-Manager, Mr. C. Harris. Doors open at 6.30. Box-office open 10 to 5. No booking-fees.

ROYALTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. EDGAR BRUCE.—CRUTCH AND TOOTH-PICK. Continued success. Every Evening at 7.30 (Doors open at 7.0.) CRUTCH AND TOOTH-PICK, by G. R. Sims; followed at 9.30 by a new and original Extravaganza in 5 scenes, entitled **BALLOONACY, OR A FLIGHT OF FANCY**, by F. C. Burnand and H. P. Stephens, Music by Edward Solomon. Messrs. Edgar Bruce, Charles Groves, Philip Day, H. Astley, H. Saker, Wilkinson, Desmond; Mesdames Amalia, Nellie Harris, Kate Sullivan, Marie Williams, Hastings, Vane, Ward, Rose Cullen, &c. Greatly increased chorus. No booking fees. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. George Keogh.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.—Lessee, Miss FANNY JOSEPHS. Director, Mr. JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD. At 7.30, Operetta, Messrs. Penley, Fisher, &c. At 8.15, SUCH A GOOD MAN, Comedy, Messrs. Maclean, Beveridge, Righton, and Macklin; Miss Fanny Josephs and Mrs. Leigh. At 10.15, TALE OF A TUB, Mr. Righton, Miss N. Bromley.

GAIETY THEATRE, STRAND.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD. First Nights of a new burlesque by F. C. Burnand, called **ROBBING ROY**. Preceded by the comic drama in 3 Acts, by Byron, called **UNCLE**. Open at 6.30. Operetta at 7. Drama, 7.45. Burlesque at 9.30. Prices from 1s. No fees. Afternoon Performances every Saturday at 2.30.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. WILSON BARRETT.—Every evening, at a quarter to eight, a Play in 5 Acts, entitled **THE OLD LOVE AND THE NEW**, written by Bronson Howard, adapted for the English Stage by James Albery. This play has been for some time in preparation, and will be acted by Messrs. Charles Coghlan, David Fisher, Edmund Leathes, Edward Price, Arthur Dacre, W. Holman, J. Benn, E. Douglas, J. W. Phipps, and G. W. Anson; Mesdames Amy Roselle, W. Emery, M. A. Giffard, and Miss George White.—Box-office open from 11 to 5. No fees.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. Herman.

FOLLY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. L. TOOLE. Mr. H. J. Byron, the popular author and actor, every evening, as Sir Simon Simple in **NOT SUCH A FOOL AS HE LOOKS**. Preceded by **AFTER LONG YEARS**, followed by **DEAF AS A POST**. Doors open at 7, commence at 7.30. Prices from 1s. to £3 3s. Box office 11 till 5; no fees for booking. Notice.—Morning performances on the 26th (Boxing Day), and 27th. Change of programme each day. Friday 26th, **NOT SUCH A FOOL AS HE LOOKS**, Mr. H. J. Byron; and **DEAF AS A POST**, Messrs. E. W. Garden and entire company. Saturday the 27th (not acted for five years) **MARRIED IN HASTE**, an original comedy in four acts, by H. J. Byron. Mr. Byron, Mr. E. D. Ward (his first appearance in London), and entire company at 2.30.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Mr. HARE and Mr. KENDAL, Lessees and Managers.—EVERY EVENING at 8, THE QUEEN'S SHILLING. Characters by Mrs. Kendal, Mrs. Gaston Murray, Miss Kate Phillips, Mr. Kendal, Mr. Terriss, Mr. Wenman, Mr. Denny, Mr. Cathcart, and Mr. Hare. After which, at 10.15, Mr. Alfred Tennyson's original One Act Play, **THE FALCON**, founded on a story in the "Decameron" of Boccaccio. Mr. Kendal, Mr. Denny; Mrs. Gaston Murray and Mrs. Kendal. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office hours 11 to 5. No fees.—Acting Manager, Mr. Huy.

CRITERION THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHAS. WYNDHAM. BETSY, another genuine Criterion success. 119th Night, Saturday, November 29. Every Evening at 9 (Christmas Day excepted), the new Comedy in three acts, adapted from the French of MM. Hennequin and Najac, authors of "The Pink Dominoes," by F. C. Burnand, Esq., entitled **BETSY**, in which Messrs. H. Standing, A. Maltby, Lytton Sothorn, George Giddens, and W. J. Hill, Mesdames Lottie Venne, Mary Rorke, A. Edgeworth, Maude Taylor, Fleury, and Stephens will appear. Preceded by, at 8, **JILTED**, by A. Maltby. Doors open at 7.30.

DUKE'S THEATRE, HOLBORN.
Managers.—Messrs. Holt and Wilmer.
THIS THEATRE will REMAIN CLOSED from MONDAY to THURSDAY. Re-OPENING BOXING DAY with the 295th NIGHT of NEW BABYLON. No booking fees.

NEW SADLER'S WELLS.—WEDNESDAY, Dec. 24th, at 7.30, and every evening until further notice, will be presented the **GRAND CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME, THE FORTY THIEVES—ABDALLA'S ARMY**. New and magnificent scenery by Mr. Thos. Hall and assistants; music composed and arranged by F. Stainslaus, musical conductor. Characters by Miss Marie Longmore, Mr. Harry Chapman, Little Nellie, and Miss Katy King; Messrs. Montague Osborne, Budd, Hall, M'Leay, Clayton, &c. Messrs. R. Lyons, F. W. Wyndham, J. Archer, E. Lyons, A. Redwood, &c. Clown, Mr. G. Benham. Ballet under the direction of Miss Morgan. The superb costumes by Mrs. Narnau. A Morning Performance will be given on Boxing-day and on Saturday at 2 p.m.

NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.
Bishopsgate.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. JOHN and RICHARD DOUGLASS.—Morning Performance of the Grand Pantomime, Boxing Day, Dec. 26th, Saturday, Dec. 27, every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at 1 o'clock, to which children under 10 half-price, Boxing Day excepted. Boxing Night, Dec. 26th, and every evening at 7, **BLUE BEARD REVIVED**. By John Douglas. Produced with Magnificent Scenery. Costly Spectacles, and Powerful Company. Messrs. Aynsley Cook, L. Barnum, F. Hughes, the Phend and the Gionauelli Pantomime Troupe, Misses Millie Howes, Milly Howard, Madame Sidonne, Madame Petri, Miss Neville, &c. Grand Spectacular Ballet, The Genii of Chamber. Brilliant Transformation Scene, The Coral Reef. New scenery by Mr. Richard Douglass. Box-office open from 11 till 8.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, HOXTON.
Sole Proprietress.—Mrs. S. LANE.
MORNING PERFORMANCE, BOXING-DAY only, at 12. EVERY EVENING, at quarter to Seven, **GRAND PANTOMIME** entitled **THE SHEPHERD'S STAR**; or, **CAPRICORNE AND THE PLANET SRIPE**. Mrs. S. Lane. Messrs. Bernard, Newcombe, F. Arnold, Lewis, Bigwood, Reeve, Hyde, Pitt, Mills; Misses Pollie Randall, Patti Goddard, Summers, Rayner, Brewer, Newham, Pettifer. Concluding with a new Tragic Drama **INGULPH**; Messrs. Reynolds, Newbound, Towers, Evans, Drayton, Charlton. Misses. Adams, Bellair.

NEW GRECIAN THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. G. CLARK.
On Christmas Eve will be produced the new Grand Pantomime, entitled **HARLEQUIN ROKOKO, THE FLINT FIEND, OR KINGDOM THREE**, THE TOAD, THE QUEEN BEE, and THE TREE, supported by Messrs. George Conquest, G. Conquest Jun., H. Nicholls, Monkhouse, Parker, Vincent, &c.; Mesdames Marie Loftus, Lillian, Adair, Victor, Denvel, Inch, Lee, &c. Superb scenery and effects. Harlequinade by R. Inch, Clown; Frank Sims, Harlequin; E. Contree, Pantaloon; and Miss Wood, Columbine. Notice.—Morning Performances on Boxing Day and Saturday follow at 12. Monday and Wednesday following at 1, and every Monday, until further notice. Box-office open daily 11 to 3.

SANGERS' GRAND NATIONAL AMPHI- THEATRE will re-open on BOXING DAY, and give two Performances, at 2 and 7, which will be repeated every morning and evening. The Grand Christmas Comic Double Pantomime, entitled **ALADDIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP**; OR, **HARLEQUIN ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES**, will embrace originality and incidents of a most marvellous character and for unparalleled grandeur will by far eclipse any previous production that has been submitted to public criticism. The scenery is by those eminent artists, Messrs. Dayes and Caney. The powerful company will comprise the following:—Mesdames Grace Armytage, Josephine St. Ange, Kate Allwood, Maggie Duggan, Alice Mowbray, Edith Clifton, Eugenie Vernie, Norah Wright, Lottie Clegge, H. Hearn; Messrs. Mat. Robson, C. T. Webber, R. H. Lingham, E. N. Hllows, T. C. Valentine, John Stokes, A. Hyland, W. Reeves, C. Sidney Vernon, James Crockette, A. Lauraine, the Brothers Alvao, &c.; Premiere Danseuses, Miles. Elise Hudson and Sophie Gurofil, and the **GREAT LITTLE SANDY** as Clown. Scenes in the Pantomime: No. 1. The Caves of the Genii; No. 2. Exterior of Widow Twankay's Home; No. 3. The Forest; No. 4. A Back Street in the City. No. 5. The Illuminated Grove of the Enchanted Palace. No. 6. Ante-Room in the Palace. Grand Transformation Scene entitled, **THE GENII GLISTENING ARCADES OF LIGHT**. The whole produced under the personal superintendence of Messrs. JOHN and GEORGE SANGER. The performance will commence with the Royal Continental and English Circus Company. Clever Riders, astounding Gymnasts, &c. Also the Marvellous Troupe of Performing Elephants. Look at the names of the great Company, and Two Pantomimes at each Representation. Private Boxes, 21s. 6d. to Five Guineas; Dress Circle, 4s.; Balcony Stalls, 3s.; Orchestra Stalls, 2s. 6d.; Boxes and Pit Stalls, 2s.; Amphitheatre, 1s. 6d.; the Great Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d. Children under 12 Half-price to Dress Circle, Balcony Stalls, and Boxes. Box-office open, 10 till 4. No fees for Booking.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.—Closed; will open on BOXING DAY at 3 and 8, with **THE PIRATE'S HOME**, by Gilbert A. Beckett, music by Vivian Bligh; after which, **MASTER TOMMY'S AT HOME**, by Mr. Corney Grain. Concluding with **A CHRISTMAS STOCKING**. Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 8. Morning Performances Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 3. Admission 1s. and 2s., stalls, 3s. and 6s.

MASKELYNE and COOKE CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME.—Every Evening at 8, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 3 and 8. Mr. Maskelyne will introduce his amusing extravaganza, **SENNACHERIB**, in Two Parts, and **SCREVIN'S**, in Two Pieces, embracing new startling illusions and surprising mechanical effects, and including one or two of the more prominent features of the popular scenes, Elixir Vitæ, and Zach. As in all holiday seasons the Egyptian Hall overflows with visitors, it is advisable for all who can to attend before Boxing Day.—Seats are now being booked for weeks in advance.

CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Under Royal Patronage.—Best entertainment in the world. Variety Artists, at 8. Holmum, the King of the Cannon, and Anna, at 9.30. PERI OF PERU, an Original Musical Eccentricity, at 10. Miss Nelly Power, supported by Misses. Alice Holt, Broughton, Powell, Aguzzi, and the Corps de Ballet. Prices 6d. to £2 2s.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK, N.W. Admission, Sixpence every day (except Sunday) from Wednesday, December 24th, to Tuesday, January 6th, 1880, both days inclusive.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

SIXTY-EIGHTH SEASON.—1880.

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Conductor:—W. G. CUSINS, Esq.

Dates of the Eight Concerts:—Thursdays: February 5, 19; March 4, 18

Wednesdays: April 28, May 19, June 9, June 20.

Terms of Subscription:—Stalls or Front Row of Balcony, Three guineas Area or Balcony, Two guineas, and One Guinea and a-half.

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LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

Royal Mail route from London to Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Chester, Dublin, Shrewsbury, Leamington, Wolverhampton, Preston, Carlisle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth, and the NORTH OF SCOTLAND.

A Fast and Frequent Service of Trains is run from London to Birmingham in 3 hours; London to Manchester in 4½ hours; London to Liverpool in 5 hours.

Four Direct Trains to Holyhead are run in connection with the Mail Steamers to Kingstown, and the Fast Steamers of the Company to North Wall, Dublin. The Irish Mail Service via Holyhead, Dublin, and Queens-town is arranged in connection with the American Steamers.

Daily Train and Steamboat Service to Greenore for Dundalk, Newry, and the North of Ireland, also to Fleetwood and Stranraer for Belfast, Londonderry, &c.

DRAWING ROOM CARRIAGES fitted with Lavatory Accommodation are run by certain Express Trains between London and Liverpool, London and Manchester, and London and Edinburgh and Glasgow, and many of the 1st Class Carriages are now provided with Lavatories.

SLEEPING SALOONS and CARRIAGES are also attached to the Night Trains between London and Liverpool, and Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Perth, &c.

Third Class Passengers conveyed by all Trains except the Irish Mails.

PARCELS for all destinations on the Company's System and its connections are forwarded by Fast Passenger Trains throughout the day, and GOODS and MERCHANDISE by Through Express Goods Trains, specially arranged for this description of Traffic.

Chief Traffic Manager's Office, Euston Station, December, 1879.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

The Ticket Offices at Euston, Broad-street, Kensington, and Willesden Junction will be open throughout the day, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, so that passengers wishing to obtain tickets for any destinations on the London and North Western Railway can do so at any time of the day prior to the starting of the trains.

Tickets for all the principal stations on the London and North Western system and its connections can be obtained at the following Town Receiving Offices of the Company: Swan-with-Two-Necks, Gresham-street, E.C.; Golden Cross, Charing-cross; Spread Eagle, Regent-circus, W.; 70, St. Martin's-lane; 34, Albert Gate, Knightsbridge; Spread Eagle, Gracechurch-street, E.C.; 350, Oxford-street, W.; 33, High-street, Kensington; 16, Holborn.

The tickets obtained at these offices will be available from either Euston or Kensington (Addison-road), and will be issued at the same fares as are charged at those Stations. They can also be obtained at Gaze and Son's Tourist Office, 142, Strand, at the same fares as at Euston Station.

On CHRISTMAS EVE, in addition to the Train Service already announced, an Extra Train will leave London (Euston Station) at 9.25 p.m., conveying First and Second-Class passengers to Chester, Dublin, and places in Ireland; and First, Second, and Third-Class passengers to Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Stations in Scotland. This Train will convey the Mails for Ireland, Scotland, and the North, and will be run as a Supplemental Train to the Irish and Scotch Expresses.

On CHRISTMAS DAY the 6.15 a.m. Newspaper Express Train from London (Euston Station) will run to Northampton, Birmingham, Shrewsbury, Warrington, Liverpool, and Manchester, but will have no connection to Chester or the North.

All other trains on Christmas Day will run as on Sundays with the exception of the 11.10 a.m., Crewe to Holyhead, and 12.0 noon, Holyhead to Crewe, which will not run.

The Express Trains to and from the City, St. Albans, Watford, and Kensington, will not run on Bank Holiday (Friday), Dec. 26.

G. FINDLAY.

Chief Traffic Manager's Office, Euston Station, December, 1879.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS TRAFFIC.

The most complete arrangements will be made to ensure Quick Transit and Prompt Delivery of Christmas Parcels in all the Principal Towns on the London and North Western System.

Special Through Vans will be attached to the Express Trains between London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, North and South Wales, Carlisle, and Scotland, for the accommodation of this traffic, and care should be taken to deliver the Parcels to the London and North Western Company's Stations or Receiving Offices, and to order them to be sent per LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

Special Services of Vans and Carts to and from the Receiving Offices and Railway Stations will be made during the Christmas Week.

A FAST TRAIN (1, 2, and 3 Class) with Sleeping Carriages attached, now leaves London (Euston Station) at Midnight every night, for Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, and the North.

Chief Traffic Manager's Office.

G. FINDLAY.

Euston Station, London, December, 1879.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

On TUESDAY, Dec. 23, and following days, Cheap Third Class Return Tickets, available until Tuesday, Dec. 30, will be issued by third-class trains from Paddington, Victoria, Battersea, Chelsea, West Brompton, Kensington (Addison-road), Uxbridge-road, and Westbourne Park, to Yeovil, Weymouth, Bath, Bristol, Taunton, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Exeter, Torquay, Plymouth, Falmouth, Penzance, &c., also to stations in the Trowbridge, Yeovil, and Weymouth districts, and with a few exceptions to all stations below Bristol and vice versa.

CHRISTMAS EVE ARRANGEMENTS.
The 5.0 p.m. Fast Train from Paddington to Plymouth will be continued to Minehead, Barnstaple, Falmouth, and Penzance, calling at all stations below Plymouth except Buryulow. Second class passengers for Gloucester, Cheltenham, Bristol, and stations beyond will be carried Mail train from Paddington, which will start at 9.45 p.m., instead of 9.0 p.m.

A Special Fast Train (1st, 2nd, 3rd class) will leave Paddington at 10.0 p.m. for Exeter and Plymouth, calling at Reading, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Bridgewater, Taunton, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Newton Abbot, Totnes, and Kingsbridge-road. The cheap tickets will be available by this train.

On Christmas Day the 5.30 a.m. Newspaper Train from Paddington will run at the usual times to Oxford, Plymouth, and Swansea, calling at usual stations. With a few exceptions the trains on Christmas Day will run as on Sundays.

For further particulars see special bills.
J. GRIERSON, General Manager.

SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

All Express and Ordinary Return Tickets for distances above Ten Miles and up to Fifty Miles, issued on DECEMBER 23rd, 24th and 25th, will be available for the Return Journey up to and including December 30th. Tickets issued for distances of Fifty Miles and not exceeding One Hundred Miles are available for the Return Journey within eight days, including date of issue. Tickets issued for distances of One Hundred Miles and upwards are available for the Return Journey within One Month, including date of issue.

This arrangement also applies to Tickets issued between London and Beckenham Junction.

Extra Trains on DECEMBER 24th to nearly all parts. For particulars see bills.

CHRISTMAS DAY.
Extra Trains will run as required, but the Ordinary Service will be as on Sundays.

BANK HOLIDAY AND BOXING DAY.
Several of the Main Line, North Kent, Mid Kent and Branch Trains, will be withdrawn.

A LATE TRAIN will run from Charing Cross at 11.45 p.m. to Croydon, Caterham Junction, Merstham, Red Hill, Reigate, and Stations to Dorking, including the Caterham Branch.

From Charing Cross to Strood and Maidstone at 11.43 p.m., calling at London Bridge, Lee, and all Stations to Maidstone.

From Charing Cross at 12.0 midnight to Dartford, via Greenwich, calling at all Stations; also, from Charing Cross at 12.15 midnight to Lewisham, Blackheath, and Woolwich.

For further particulars see bills, to be had on application at any of the Stations.

JOHN SHAW, Manager and Secretary.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

On DECEMBER 24, 25, 27, 28, and 29, RELIEVING TRAINS will precede some of the principal Trains shown in the Time Tables. On Christmas-day the Trains will run the same as on Sundays, with Additional Trains as under:—

Bishop's Stortford at 9.15 a.m. to Dunmow and Braintree; Cambridge at 10.20 a.m. to Haverrhill, Melford, Sudbury, Newmarket, Bury, St. Ives, Huntingdon, and Wisbech; Ely at 10.45 a.m. to Soham, and at 10.55 a.m. to Sutton, Watton, Wymondham, Dereham, Fakenham, Wells, and Norwich (Thorpe); and Lynn at 11.55 a.m. to Hunstanton, Docking, Burnham, Swaffham, &c., calling at intermediate Stations. These Trains will be in connection with the 8.0 a.m. Train from Liverpool-street.

Liverpool-street at 5.10 a.m. to Ipswich, the same as on week days, calling at Chelmsford, Mark's Tey, Colchester, and Manningtree.

Liverpool-street at 9.0 a.m. to Chelmsford, Colchester, and Ipswich, in connection with a Train to Walton-on-the-Naze, and at Ipswich with Trains to Stowmarket, Diss, Bungay, Saxmundham, Halesworth, Lowestoft, Yarmouth, &c.

Sudbury at 11.5 a.m. to Bury, Ingham, Barnham, &c. Bentley at 10.30 a.m. to Hadleigh; in connection with the 7.18 a.m. Train from Liverpool-street.

Colchester at 10.30 a.m. to Walton-on-the-Naze. Ipswich at 11.15 a.m. to Felixstowe, Framlingham, Aldeburgh, Southwold, Lowestoft, Yarmouth (S.T.); and Tivetshall at 12.35 p.m. to Harleston, Bungay, &c., calling at the intermediate Stations, in connection with the 7.18 and 9.0 a.m. Trains from Liverpool-street.

London, December, 1879. S. SWARBRICK, General Manager.

NORTH LONDON RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

NEW STATION AT MILDMAY PARK.

The New Station at Mildmay Park will be Opened for Passenger Traffic on the 1st January, 1880.

Trains every few minutes to and from BROAD STREET (City), and all Stations on the North London Line.

Frequent Trains to Hampstead Junction, Kew, Richmond, Kensington, Alexandra Palace, and Suburban Stations of the Great Northern Line.

FARES BETWEEN MILDMAY PARK AND BROAD STREET (CITY).

	Single.	Return.
First Class	4s.	6d.
Second Class	3s.	4d.
Third Class	2d.	

For Times and Fares at intermediate Stations, see Company's published Time Books and Bills.

Broad-street Station, December, 1879. G. BOLLAND NEWTON, General Manager.

NORTH AND SOUTH WESTERN JUNCTION RAILWAY.

(JOINT COMMITTEE.)

NOTICE.—OPENING OF NEW STATION AT SOUTH ACTON, adjoining Gunnersbury and Turnham Green.

The New Station at South Acton will be opened for Passenger Traffic on the 1st JANUARY, 1880.

Trains every half-hour to BROAD-STREET (City), Willesden Junction, Camden Town, Islington, and Highbury, Dalston Junction, and all stations on the Hampstead Junction and North London Railways.

Broad-street Station, December, 1879. G. BOLLAND NEWTON, General Manager.

NORTH LONDON RAILWAY.

BANK HOLIDAY, Friday, 26th December, 1879.

Trains EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES to and from Chalk Farm for Primrose Hill and the Zoological Gardens; to and from Highbury and Islington for the Agricultural Hall; and to and from Victoria Park and Hampstead Heath and Willesden Junction.

EVERY HALF-HOUR to and from KEW BRIDGE, for Kew Gardens.

EVERY HOUR, to and from RICHMOND, with a Frequent Train Service to and from TEDDINGTON, for Bushey Park and Hampton Court.

EVERY HALF-HOUR to and from Kensington (Addison Road) and South Kensington, with a Frequent Train Service in connection with the CRYSTAL PALACE.

Frequent Trains to Finsbury Park, Alexandra Palace Station, Wood Green, Barnet, High Barnet, and Enfield.

Broad Street Station, December, 1879. BY ORDER.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

For particulars of the usual EXTENSION OF RETURN TICKETS, and the issue of CHEAP TICKETS, see Bills and Time Table Books.

On Wednesday, 24th December, A SPECIAL LATE TRAIN will leave Waterloo Station at 7.15 p.m. for Southampton, Portsmouth, and the principal intermediate stations; and at 7.50 p.m. for the Salisbury, Yeovil, Exeter, Plymouth, and Devonport and North Devon Lines.

Other extra relief trains will run from London to the principal Main Line stations.

Special facilities are afforded for passengers to the Isle of Wight, for particulars of which see bills.

On Christmas Day A SPECIAL EXTRA TRAIN will leave Waterloo at 8.5 a.m. for Southampton, Portsmouth, Gosport, Romsey, and Salisbury, and the principal intermediate stations.

The Company's West-End Office, 30, Regent-street, Piccadilly-circus, will REMAIN OPEN on Monday, 22nd, Tuesday, 23rd, and Wednesday, 24th December, until 10.0 p.m., for the sale of tickets and for general information.

BLAIR ATHOL.

FEW PROOFS ON FINE PLATE PAPER OF BLAIR ATHOL,

DRAWN BY

JOHN STURGESS,

Double-page size, price Two Shillings, may be had on application to the Publisher, 148, STRAND, W.C.

SCHWEITZER'S COCOATINA.

Anti-Dyspeptic Cocoa or Chocolate Powder.

Guaranteed pure Soluble Cocoa of the Finest Quality, with the excess of fat extracted.

THE FACULTY pronounce it "the most nutritious, perfectly digestible, beverage for Breakfast, Luncheon, or Supper, and invaluable for Invalids and Children." Highly commended by the entire Medical Press.

Being without Sugar, Spice, or other admixture, it suits all palates, keeps better in all climates, and is four times the strength of Cocoas thickened yet weakened with Starch, &c., and really cheaper. Made with boiling water, a teaspoonful to a Breakfast Cup, costing less than a halfpenny. In tin packets at 1s. 6d., 3s., 5s. 6d., &c. By Chemists and Grocers.

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Is the most delicate, digestible, cheapest Vanilla Chocolate, and may be taken when richer chocolate is prohibited.

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THE ILLUSTRATED Sporting and Dramatic News.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1879.

CIRCULAR NOTES.

ONE never knows in what unlikely quarters information may be found, and seeing that there was in the *Bazaar*, *Exchange*, and *Mart* a series of articles entitled "Notes on our Game Birds," I procured a copy of that popular and useful paper and turned to page 460. My desire for novel instruction was abundantly gratified, for I found that the bird treated in this case was the hare; and it has some-how or other never occurred to me before to look on a hare in the light of a bird. Accepting this view of the matter, it is a little surprising to find reference to the bird's hind legs, and it is a great pity that a sketch of the ornithological hare was not drawn to accompany the letter-press. Some time ago a genius wrote an essay on ostriches, and declared that they were constructed from giraffes, of which the hind half had been cut off and given to the poor; and some such manipulation must have been employed in the manufacture of the *Bazaar's* hare-bird. Looked at simply in the old light of an animal, the articles describing him are written with much ability, and contain much useful and interesting information.

AN industrious friend has sent me many sheets of paper covered with long columns of figures descending from £26,376, followed by £23,528 to £554, preceded by £555, and the result of the whole is intended to show that during seventy-seven race-meetings, held between March 25th and November 29th, a sum of £395,495 was won on the turf. As this omits many jumping competitions of various sorts, some of which are worth the winning, I suppose that during the twelve months near upon £450,000 will have been won in stakes on the turf. I have not made the faintest endeavour to check any of my friend's conclusions, but he is, I know, well up to his work, and understands the subject upon which he has entered with such elaborate calculations. The figures are probably near the mark, and will surprise many readers.

THE impossibility of finding space for reviews of magazines this month has necessitated the omission in the usual place of comment on an article in the *Cornhill*, called "Life in Brittany." This paper contains an account of a "sport" which was popular as recently as 1847, and the incident related deserves mention. The game was played for small stakes—a pound of tobacco for the chief of each party and a sixpenny handkerchief for the others, and on the occasion recorded there were six a side. The whip, with which the exciting game was played, had a lash eighteen feet long, swelling at a little distance from the handle to the thickness of a man's arm, from whence it tapered to a twisted and strongly knotted end, made more like a knife by the help of a mixture of glue. This plaything was fixed upon a strong, stiff stick, and often not only cut a man into steaks, but sometimes cut out the life of him at a single stroke. The smack of these whips made much more noise than a gun-shot; they could be heard at the distance of two and a half miles. The signal given by an old peasant, the combatants put themselves into the attitude of defiance, the whip raised, while the lash was held in the left hand. "Strike," said the same voice, and the twelve cables were let loose in an instant, but no smack was heard as they met, twisted, and struggled in mid-air. Those most renowned quickly disengaged their lashes and dealt the second and dreadful blow upon the persons of their antagonists, opening up long seams of livid or bleeding flesh; on the third stroke all the faces except two were seamed and flowing with blood. These two were the leaders—one tall, Kaer by name; the other short, the dwarf Josille; one heavy, the other light; one all flesh, the other, although only five feet high, all nerves and sinews. Soon these two were left to compete for the wretched prize. Kaer stepped forward and bent his whole strength to the blow which he aimed at Josille. The little man never parried the blow, but pirouetted as it were; while, without any effort, he threw out his lash softly. The blow of Kaer missed; but when Josille sharply drew

back his lash, the whole face of Kaer was cut in half—a gigantic gap opened up the very bones. Josille soon had his enemy at his mercy, grievously cut and wounded, but spared him, pulled the whip from his hand, and so won the pound of inferior tobacco, while his companions took the handkerchiefs.

ONE of the most remarkable curiosities of modern times has been lost, and Scotland Yard is naturally eager to discover the thief. Fifty pounds reward is offered, and it certainly is not a penny too much, for the stolen objects are "a four-wheel commercial business horse and phaeton containing goods." What sort of goods this marvellous horse contains is, unfortunately for the curiosity of readers, not stated; but even if he were completely empty, or held no more than the ordinary horse of commerce, the fact of his being four-wheeled would make him singular. The probability that he is detained against his will is forced upon one by the statement that he is a "business horse," and indeed a "commercial business horse." There can be no mistaking the creature when once seen, for his four wheels in place of legs will proclaim his identity. The Director of Criminal Investigations, Great Scotland Yard, S.W., is responsible for the advertisement, and if he should recover the animal, it is to be hoped that some arrangement may be made for its exhibition, with a lecture, perhaps, by the compiler of the notice.

MR. SENIOR—"Redspinner"—whose accounts of fish and fishings are so well known, has lately published a book called "Travel and Trout in the Antipodes," and amongst other fish which he has caught—for his alliterative title does not mean that he confined himself exclusively to trout—the "cucumber mullet" seems peculiarly tempting. The fish, an astute reviewer has decided, is not a mullet, but a sort of grayling with a delicate scent of cucumber, as our grayling has more or less (according to the locality in which he is bred and taken) a scent of thyme. It is only during the last few years that trout has been known in Australia; now it swarms in many streams, and it would be well if the Australians would return the compliment and send us some of these cucumber mullet in exchange for the trout we have given them. Many of our most familiar fresh-water fish are useless, and the fish which Mr. Senior describes would be a most welcome addition. An example is given of the rapidity with which trout has bred in the Antipodes. Not more than eight years ago a gentleman living on the banks of the Cust, a little stream which forms a tributary of the New Zealand Avon, turned twenty-five trout into this water, which previously did not contain that kind of fish. In the fourth year after they had been placed in the Cust they were sufficiently numerous for fishing purposes. The day which Mr. Senior and his friend spent on the stream was not a very successful one; but later in the season this same friend wrote to Mr. Senior, and told him that he had had some splendid fishing in the Cust during the last few weeks, catching from 12 lb. to 16 lb. of trout per diem—largest fish a little over 5 lb. If the cucumber mullet did half as well here, we should soon have a most agreeable visitor made resident amongst us.

THE use of legal and common-place phrases in light verse is often effective, and it is somewhat strange that a very similar idea should have occurred to both Thackeray and Mr. Gilbert. Looking into the new and beautiful edition of Thackeray's ballads I came across a forgotten set of verses to "A Doe in the City," describing a beautiful and business-like young woman's proceedings in unromantic precincts:—

Kitty at the table sits
(Whether the old clerk leads her);
"I deliver this," she says,
As my act and deed, sir."
When I heard these funny words
Come from lips so pretty,
This, I thought, should surely be
Subject for a ditty.

Mr. Gilbert is so brimful of quaint fancies that no one would for a moment suspect him of borrowing a notion, but in *The Sorcerer* the words which Thackeray italicises form the burden of a notable verse:—

See, they sign without a quiver it,
Then to seal proceed.
They deliver it, they deliver it,
As their act and deed.

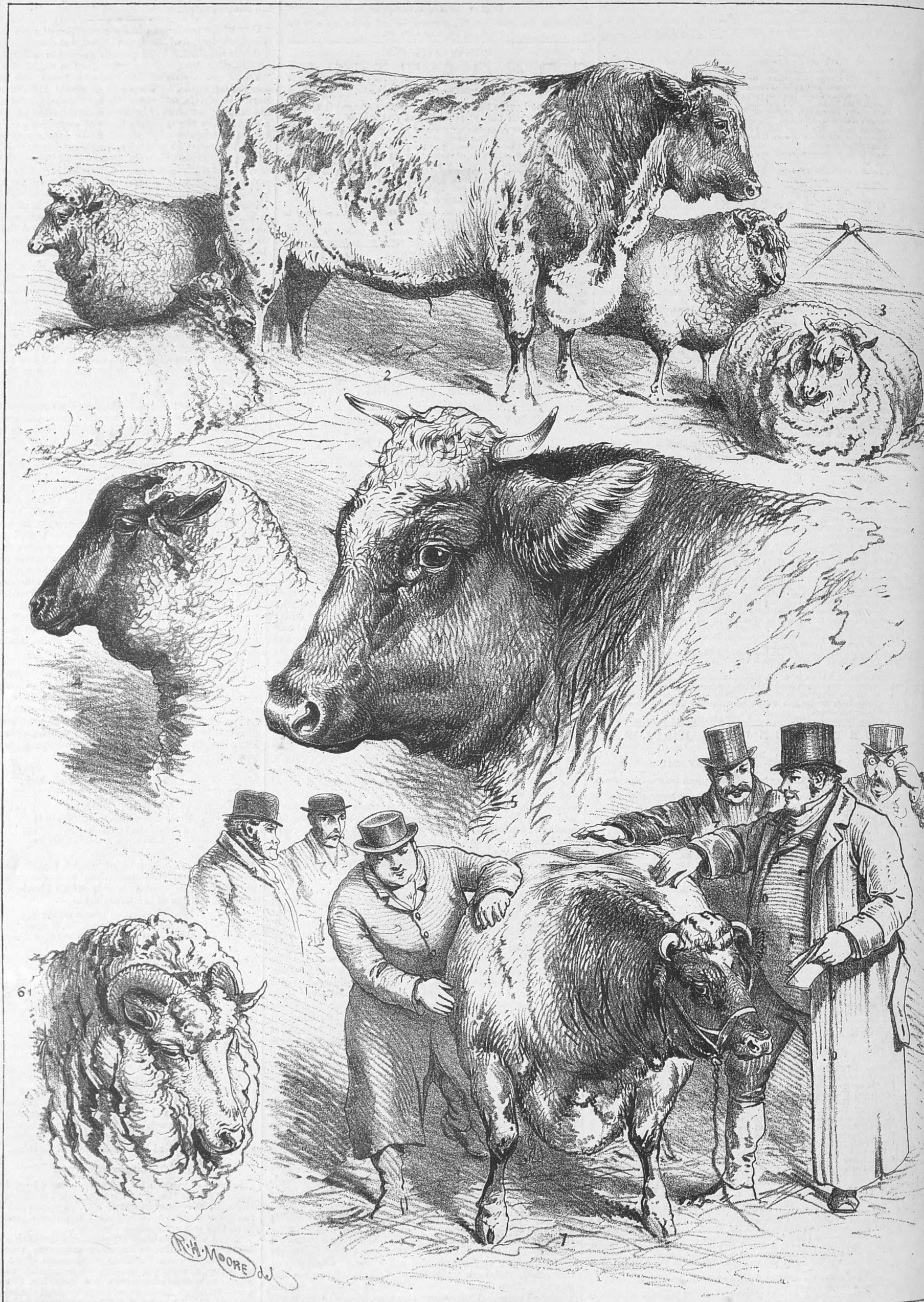
The coincidence seems worth mention.

THE winnings of the crack three-year-olds of America are calculated in the *Spirit of the Times*. Spendthrift, 22,075 dols.; Falsetto, 16,425 dols.; Ferida, 15,425 dols.; Monitor, 15,305 dols.; and Lord Murphy, 10,800 dols.—a total of 80,030 dols. So Spendthrift (the journal says) is the largest winner of the year, while Bramble wins more races than any other horse, and Lizzie D. started a greater number of times (34) than any other. Sensation is the only horse of any prominence who has not been defeated during the year, having won eight straight races. Mistake, the fleet son of Waverley and Misfortune, who recently sailed for England, where he cannot fail, barring accidents, to show his heels to England's best, lowered the two-year-old time record at one mile, having run that distance in 1.43½ at the Louisville fall meeting.

RAPIER.

SKATING.—A match for £10 a-side came off on Monday in a dense fog, on Mr. Toole's lake, at the Albert Running Grounds, Northampton, between C. Tompkins and W. Brown, the latter receiving 50 yards start. After a good exhibition, Tompkins won with comparative ease.

THERE was an excellent attendance in the Club enclosure on Wormwood Scrubbs, on Saturday afternoon, when the chief event decided was a Handicap Sweepstakes of £3 each, for a silver cup, at seven pigeons each, those missing two to retire. There were nine competitors, but only Mr. Cavendish (27½ yards) killed all his birds, and was declared the winner of the cup and £27. A match for £10 at three pigeons each was shot off previous to the above contest, between Mr. Wallace (30½ yards) and Mr. Gilbert, which was won by the former killing two to his opponent's one. Four minor handicap sweepstakes brought the afternoon's shooting to a conclusion.



PRIZE WINNERS AT THE CATTLE SHOW AT ISLINGTON.

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capital fencing. Mr. Dacre played neatly as Harold Kenyon, but Mr. David Fisher made nothing of the part of old Westbrook. Miss Amy Roselle was a fairly sympathetic heroine, and at times was as pathetic as the part demanded. Miss Winifred Emery, as a coquettish young wife and then a widow, acted with pleasant smartness and vivacity, while Miss Georgie White was one of the cleverest stage children we have ever seen. The play was received with much applause, and the performers were called after each act, a similar honour awaiting Mr. Bronson Howard and his adaptor at the conclusion, when they both appeared and bowed their acknowledgments.

MR. AND MRS. BANCROFT open the Haymarket with a revival of *Money*. The Prince of Wales's company has received several additions, and the piece will be superbly mounted.
MR. GEORGE RIGNOLD is going to migrate to the Connaught Theatre with *Henry V.* and *Black-eyed Susan*.
MISS WALLIS has secured a new drama from the pen of Mr. W. G. Wills, and will produce it early in the year.
THE Vaudeville, which has been closed for decorations, re-opens on Boxing Night with a new comedietta by C. M. Rae, entitled *Castles in the Air*, a revival of *The Road to Ruin*, and a new farce by J. Dilley and Lewis Clifton, called *A Military Manoeuvre*.
WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Henry C. Sanders, the husband of a lady well known in the theatrical profession as Miss Grace Armytage. Mr. Sanders had been suffering for some time past and quite unable to follow his profession—that of musician. He has left four young children now entirely dependent upon their mother.

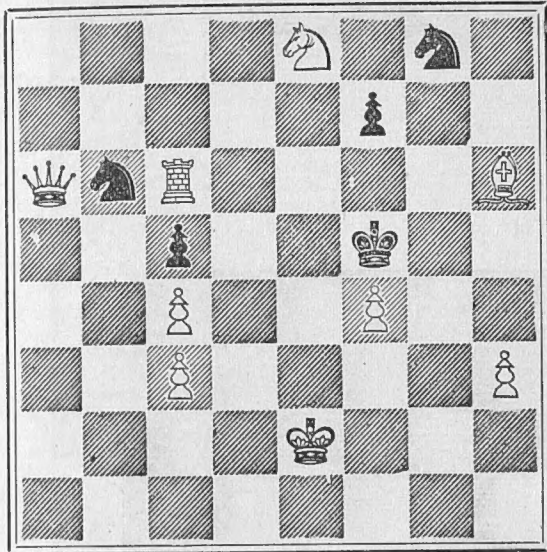
CHESS.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. T. (Bath).—Our best thanks for the games.
T. H.—We greatly regret the mistake, for which you certainly are not blameable.
J. R. (Brighton).—The puzzle 257 is of rare ingenuity, and there is, as you say, a piece required to command white's Q 6 square, but our diagram is quite correct.
E. M.—We are much obliged for your information.
NEW YORK.—We shall be glad to receive the *Turf, Field, and Farm* regularly; to reach us it should be addressed to the Chess Editor.
G. VICTORIA.—Quite right; see notice below.
Solution of Problem No. 258 by Juvenis, J. R., and "Julia Short," is correct.
* In Problem No. 253 (Mr. Hazeon's), White is to play and mate in two (not three) moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 257.
(Mr. Frankenstein's puzzle.)
White's last move was Kt to K 4 takes P at White's Q B 5. Replace the Kt and black P, and discover mate by Q Kt P taking B *en pass*.

PROBLEM No. 259.
By FRANCIS C. COLLINS.
BLACK.



White to play and mate in two moves.

CHESS IN LONDON.

A lively game played on November 25th, in a match between the Railway Clearing House Club and the Belsize Club. The opening is bizarre and weak in several points, but the after-play is very clever and presents many interesting phases.

[King's Knight's opening.]

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
Mr. Knight.	Mr. Frankenstein.	Mr. Knight.	Mr. Frankenstein.
1. P to K 4	P to K 4	20. Kt to Q 5 (h)	Q to Kt sq (i)
2. Kt to K B 3	P to Q B 3	21. Castles Q R	P to K Kt 4 (k)
3. B to B 4	P to B 4 (a)	22. Kt takes B	K takes Kt
4. P to Q 3	P to B 5 (b)	23. Q to Q B 3	Kt to Q 2
5. P to B 3 (c)	Kt to B 3	24. B to R 4	P to Kt 4
6. Q to Kt 3 (d)	Kt to Q R 4	25. R takes Kt (ch) (e)	B takes R
7. B to B 7 (ch)	K to K 2	26. Kt takes P	P takes B
8. Q to R 3 (ch)	P to B 4	27. Kt takes B (m)	K takes Kt
9. B to Kt 3 (e)	Q to B 2	28. R to Q sq (ch)	K to K 3
10. P to Q 4	P to Q 3	29. Q to B 4 (ch)	K to B 3
11. P takes KP	P takes P	30. Q to R 6 (ch) (n)	K to K 2
12. B to B 2	K to B 2	31. Q to K Kt 6	R to K B sq
13. P to B 4	P to Q Kt 3 (f)	32. R to Q 5	P to B 6
14. Kt to B 3	P to K R 3	33. P to K Kt 3 (o)	R to B 2
15. B to Q 2	Kt takes B P (g)	34. Q takes R P	Q to Kt 3
16. Q to R 4	Kt takes B	35. Q takes R (ch)	Q to B 3
17. Kt takes Kt	B to Q 2	36. Q to K 3	R to Q B sq
18. Q to Kt 3 (ch)	B to K 3	37. P to K 5	Q to B 4
19. Kt to B 4	B to K 2	38. P to K 6	Q takes R

And Black wins.
(a) We admire the boldness of this defence, but cannot recommend it for adoption in match games.
(b) Weak; Kt to B 3 seems best.
(c) P to Q 4 is the detrimental stroke to be inflicted in this and similar positions.
(d) Useless; Q to K 2 was probably his best.
(e) B to Q 5 would have increased Black's embarrassments.
(f) If Kt takes B P, White wins thus:
14. B to Kt 3 B to K 3
15. Kt to Kt 5 (ch) K receives
16. Kt takes B
(g) White ought not to have allowed the capture of the pawn.
(h) A move of high order, to which Black makes the safest reply.
(i) Black could not take this knight for the sake of winning a pawn without materially damaging his position and exposing his king to a strong attack, thus:
20. Kt takes Kt
21. P takes Kt B takes P
22. Q to Q 3, &c.
(k) This move only denudes the king of a protector.
(l) A lively and by no means unsound sacrifice.
(m) Here we think White missed his way to victory; he ought to have played thus:
27. R to Q sq B to K sq (a)
28. Q takes P (ch) K to K 3
29. Kt to B 6 B takes Kt (best)
30. Q takes B (ch) K to K 4
31. R to Q 5 (ch) and white mates in two moves.
(n) 27. If R to Q sq
28. R takes B (ch) and wins.
(o) Tempting black to interpose Q.
(p) Q to K 7 would at least have enabled him to keep black in trouble for many more moves.

CHESS CHAT.

I AM sorry to hear that Mr. Edward Marks has severed his connection with the *North Middlesex Magazine*. His reason for doing so I need not mention, much less discuss; but Mr. Marks had exhibited such special qualifications for conducting a chess column that I do not hesitate to express my opinion that his withdrawal from the post referred to will prove not merely a loss to the Magazine named, but also to the public in general; and I shall be very glad to hear that matters have been so arranged as to induce him to withdraw his resignation and resume his duties. In any case he will continue his editorship of the column in *Walter Pelham's Journal*. I can truly say that Mr. Marks has made both these columns, and each of these columns has made its mark. I was going to send this pretty little joke to enliven the gloomy "Hyphen" Magazine, but I feared it would be lost and my intention misconstrued.

I congratulate the editor of the *Croydon Guardian* upon the recovery of his good spirits, and the continuation of his column in its original proportions. I can assure him that far and wide his efforts to support our cause are appreciated, and no paper is more cordially welcomed than that over whose chess destinies he so gracefully presides.

A match took place lately between the Liverpool and Manchester clubs. Twelve games were played, the result being even; a thirteenth was commenced but not finished, and the umpire upon examination of the position when the game was abandoned, scored it in favour of Liverpool. Umpires in such cases are a mockery. As a rule they are stronger than the players, and necessarily regard the position from a different standpoint, and, therefore, their arbitrament must be unfair towards the combatants.

I understand that a Grand Tournament for play and problems has been organised in New York by the Manhattan Club, and for its success Canadians and Americans are harmoniously and industriously working together. Associated with the Committee I find the names of Mackenzie, Delmar, Hosmer, Reichhelm, Gilberg, Perrin, Allen, Tweed, and other celebrities. Several large prizes will be given, and the first will be little short of £200. The Congress will open its proceedings in the latter part of next January.

I have just returned from a tour in Derbyshire and Notts, and during my visit encountered amongst others Mr. S. Hamel and Mr. A. Marriott; the former gentleman is the recognised champion of the Midland Counties, and the latter only needs a few months' practice with experts of the game to enable him to take a high place in the foremost ranks. His style is dashing and his grasp of the game comprehensive.

During my absence from London, M. Alphonse Delannoy has left us for good, and returned to his dear Paris. I greatly regret that I had not an opportunity of shaking him by the hand and wishing him good luck before his departure, for a more true and unselfish lover of our game I have never met. He played, not for pecuniary gain nor for reputation, but for pure love of chess itself. I remember him well about twenty-one years ago, when I often battled with him at the Divan, at the rate of ten games an hour. In those days we used to draw a grand gallery and fire off small jokes, all good, but only more or less intelligible, for at that time my illustrious opponent's utterance of English was not exactly perfect, nor his knowledge of the language extensive. Indeed I believe he then had not more than half-a-dozen words of English in his vocabulary, but frequent repetition atoned for their paucity. "Shill-ing," "lemonade," "gambit," "mon dear gentleman," were so often marched out by him to do colloquial duty that I often wondered at their not becoming so attenuated as to vanish altogether from the earth into thin air. But his laugh spoke volumes of fun, and his good temper was inexhaustible. He had not then mixed much in English society, and his opinion, not based upon facts, of our national standard of intelligence was not of a very flattering nature. "Stoopid" was one of his favourite phrases. "You," he would smilingly say (in French), "I mean your people, are stupid. Why, I have been eighteen months in this country, and yet you do not understand my English!"

As I write these lines there is echoing in my ears the bang which he used to make as he hammered the pieces into the squares with a force that resulted in a large weekly percentage of breakages. The talent for amusing mischief which he thus exhibited, I remember, was not over-pleasing to the waiter, who at last complained of it to the proprietor; and shortly afterwards that most popular personage stalked into the Divan, his countenance the picture of solemnity, and thus delivered himself:—"M. Delannoy, I understand you have broken a number of my pawns; it is too bad. Pawns, sir, as friend Lowe says, are not to be picked up in the streets. I really must, therefore, request you not to handle the pieces so fiercely." "What," replied the energetic, good-humoured Frenchman, "what you say? You complain of my breaking your pawns! Aha, you should see me in Paris—in Paris I do break the rooks!" I heartily join with hundreds in this country in wishing health and happiness to our worthy old friend, Alphonse Delannoy.

MAB.

RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS.—For a list of the arrangements made for the Christmas holidays by the different railway companies we must refer readers to the advertising columns. The London and North-Western Company now make their long journeys agreeable by the introduction of drawing-room carriages, sleeping saloons, &c., and on the other lines special trains for the conveyance of passengers and parcels to and from all parts of the United Kingdom—to say nothing of the Continent—have been introduced.

A NOVEL FEATURE has been introduced by Messrs. Spiers and Pond at the "Gaiety" Restaurant in the Strand, which no doubt will become very popular—a "commercial dinner," for both ladies and gentlemen, served every day from twelve till three o'clock in the large dining hall at separate tables. This dinner or luncheon will be a great convenience to a large number of people who may happen to be in the neighbourhood of the Strand on business or pleasure, as it is a combination of quality with cheapness, the luncheon costing something under eighteenpence all told.

THE Irving Amateur Dramatic Club propose to give another performance on Monday evening next, at St. George's Hall, for the benefit of the Home for Young Women engaged in houses of business, Ashley House, 72, Gower-street, Bedford-square. The performance will consist of Mr. J. Maddison Morton's *Where there's a Will there's a Way* and scenes from *Hamlet*. This society of gentlemen have received Mr. Henry Irving's sanction to name their club after him. They have presented about £60 to the Hospital for Sick Children, the proceeds of their benefit performance on a recent occasion.

HAVE IT IN YOUR HOUSES.—LAMPLUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE is most agreeable and efficacious in preventing and curing Fevers, Eruptive Complaints, and Inflammation. Use no substitute, for it is the only safe antidote, having peculiar and exclusive merits. It instantly relieves the most intense headache and thirst; and, if given with lime-juice syrup, is a specific in gout and rheumatism. Sold by all Chemists, and the Maker, 113, Holborn-hill, London.—[ADVT.]

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

MISS EDITH BLANDE.

THE original of our front-page portrait now takes a leading part in burlesque performances at the Royalty Theatre, and some time since earned applause by her impersonation of William in Mr. Burnand's popular burlesque of *Black-Eyed Susan*. At the present moment the young lady has not an opportunity of appearing to much advantage, having an indifferent part in an indifferent play, but she acts and sings with an energy which seems to be appreciated by her audiences.

MR. H. REEVES-SMITH.

As an actor Mr. H. Reeves-Smith is very young indeed, and as he has already succeeded in attracting favourable mention, there is distinct reason for expecting good things of him. Mr. Reeves-Smith (a son of the popular manager of the Brighton Aquarium), was born in May, 1862, and made his first appearance on the stage at Halifax, in September, 1878, under the management of Mr. Wilson Barrett. After making a tour in the provinces and fulfilling an engagement in Hull, the young actor came to London and made his *début* at the Olympic, as Richard Hare in *East Lynne*. Afterwards he was engaged at the Court Theatre, and played with humour and spirit as Tom Lilford in Mr. H. J. Byron's comedy, *Courtship*.

SHYLOCK AND PORTIA AT THE LYCEUM.

MR. STRETCH's picture represents a scene which is likely, so far as can be made out at present, to entrance audiences at the Lyceum Theatre for many months to come. We have already endeavoured to do justice to the magnificent performance of Mr. Irving and Miss Ellen Terry, who have made the present year memorable in the annals of the stage.

A GOOD TIME FOR THE SMITH.

A BAD time for owners of horses is naturally a good time for the smiths, and there is little rest for them when first the frost comes and the roads begin to grow slippery. There are many horses which must get about somehow or other, in spite of icy roads and snow balling in the feet; so when once "seasonable weather" makes its appearance the smiths begin work, while the clinking and hammering are varied by the squabbles of men in charge of the horses protesting that it is their turn to be served next. Such a scene as Mr. Sturgess's graphic pencil has shown has lately been witnessed in hundreds of such picturesque little country towns as that here shown.

THE ISLINGTON CATTLE SHOW.

THIS year's show of cattle at Islington boasted entries more numerous than they were at either of its two predecessors, and the display by its excellence and extent awakened enthusiastic admiration. There were 239 entries of cattle, against 182 last year, and 175 in 1877; the sheep filled 150 pens, against 156 last year; and of pigs there were 50 entries, against 63 last year.

It was possible, according to the prize sheet, for a steer or ox to win the first prize in its class of £25, the £40 silver cup as best animal of its breed, the £50 cup as the best steer or ox in the classes, and the 100 guineas champion plate as the best beast in the show, making a total of £220. And similarly, with a rather smaller class prize, the best female might have won a total of £215. But on the present occasion neither of these feats was accomplished. All three cups have been carried off by shorthorns, but neither the best male nor best female was the champion, owing to a limitation which excludes from this competition animals previously exhibited at Islington; and the champion was a heifer which appeared in a separate class on account of her having competed before. This was Mr. J. J. Ratcliff's Priory Princess, which was the best shorthorn at Birmingham Show. This grand roan scaled 19 cwt. 3 qrs., at three years and four months old.

The prizes awarded to Royalty were very few this year. The Queen obtained one prize of £10 for her pigs, she being the only exhibitor in that class. A shorthorn heifer and a shorthorn cow exhibited by Her Majesty passed without notice. The Prince of Wales made two exhibits of shorthorns with the result of one second prize of £10. A great number of exhibits of Devonshire animals were made by him, and he succeeded in carrying off a second prize of £15, and a third of £10 in another class. His Scotch Highland cattle gained a third prize of £5 and a commendation; but his sheep obtained no more than a couple of commendations.

The animals which figure in our artist's drawings are—(1) Mr. J. Green's Leicester ewes, (2) Mr. J. Adamson's shorthorn steer, (3) Mr. R. Jacob's Cotswold ewes, (4) Mr. H. Humphrey's Southdown wether, (5) Mr. J. J. Ratcliff's shorthorn heifer, (6) Mrs. Langdon's mountain wether, and (7) Mr. R. Stratton's shorthorn heifer.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AUSTRALIAN DINGOS.

(To the Editor of THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS.)

SIR,—Having spent my life up to the last few months in the Australian bush, I was naturally attracted by a letter under the above heading in your issue of December 6th, signed J. Hammond Bennett, in which that gentleman says concerning a dingo in his possession: "His chief aversion appears to be towards all the large dogs that he happens to meet with when out for exercise, and it requires all my strength to keep him from flying at them." Now, sir, Mr. Bennett may congratulate himself on possessing a dingo such as was never (or "hardly ever") seen before. Had he said that it required all his strength to keep his dingo from flying from, instead of at, the said large dogs, it would have seemed far more natural. The dingo in his native state is as arrant a coward as ever stepped. He runs for dear life when hunted by a single sheepdog, or a greyhound, rarely shows fight when caught, but submits to being strangled or torn to death with the most beautiful resignation.

When he gets a chance of making a raid on a mob of sheep, with one or two companions, he is "all there" with his teeth, but otherwise the dingo rarely bites to any purpose.

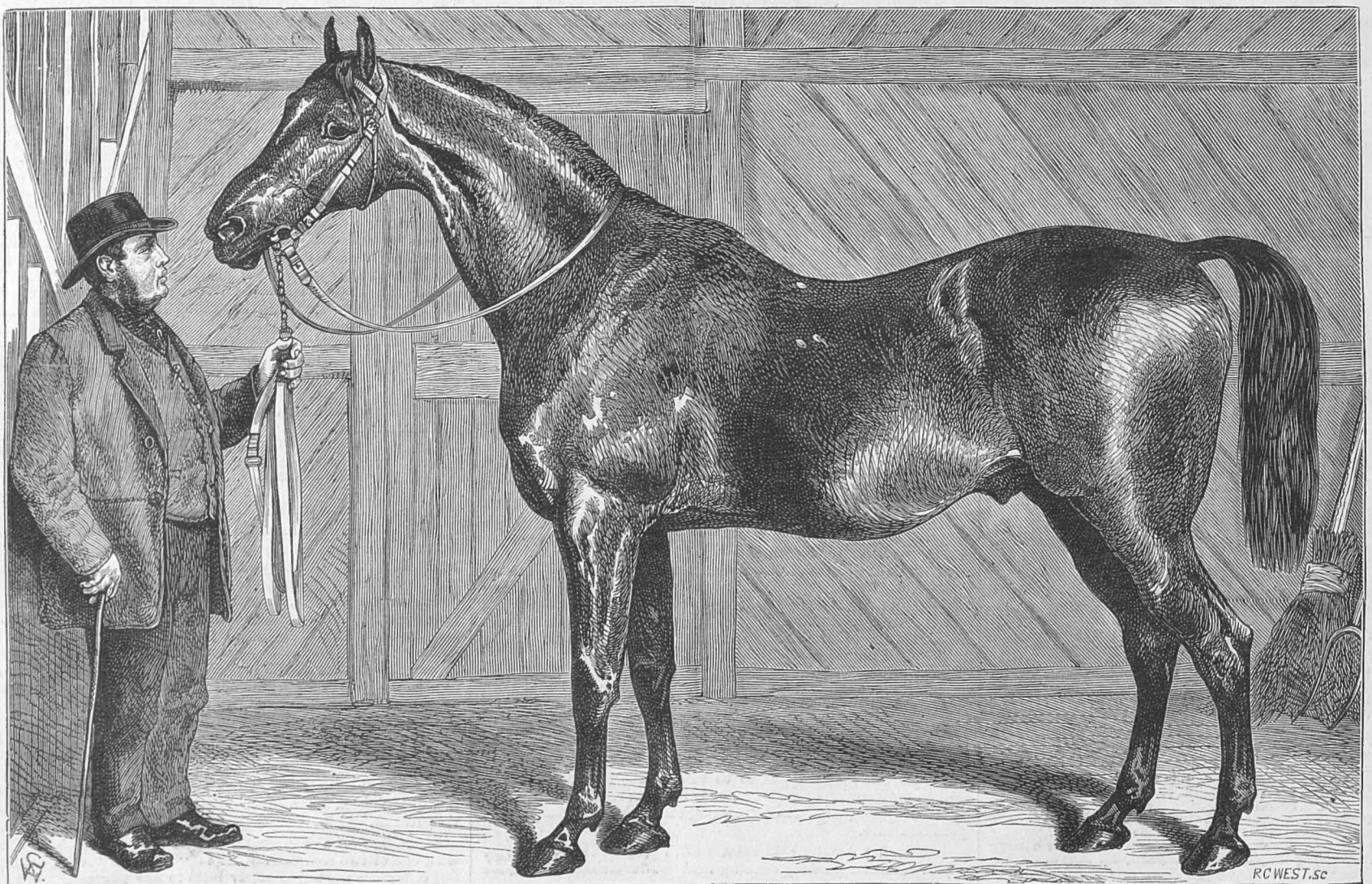
Your correspondent goes on to say that his dog is very handsome, gentle, and affectionate. The first of these qualities might possibly be obtained by care, good food, &c., but the other two are quite foreign to his race, and for a slinking thief, a snarling cur, and an unfaithful brute it would be hard to beat the domesticated dingo.

Mr. Bennett mentions that his specimen was born and bred in England, which fact doubtless accounts for the unnatural qualities possessed by him. I write this fearing that some of your readers might be misled as to the real character of the dingo, and hoping that I have not trespassed too far on your valuable space.—I am, &c., MURRUMBDIDGE, Edinburgh, December 13, 1879.



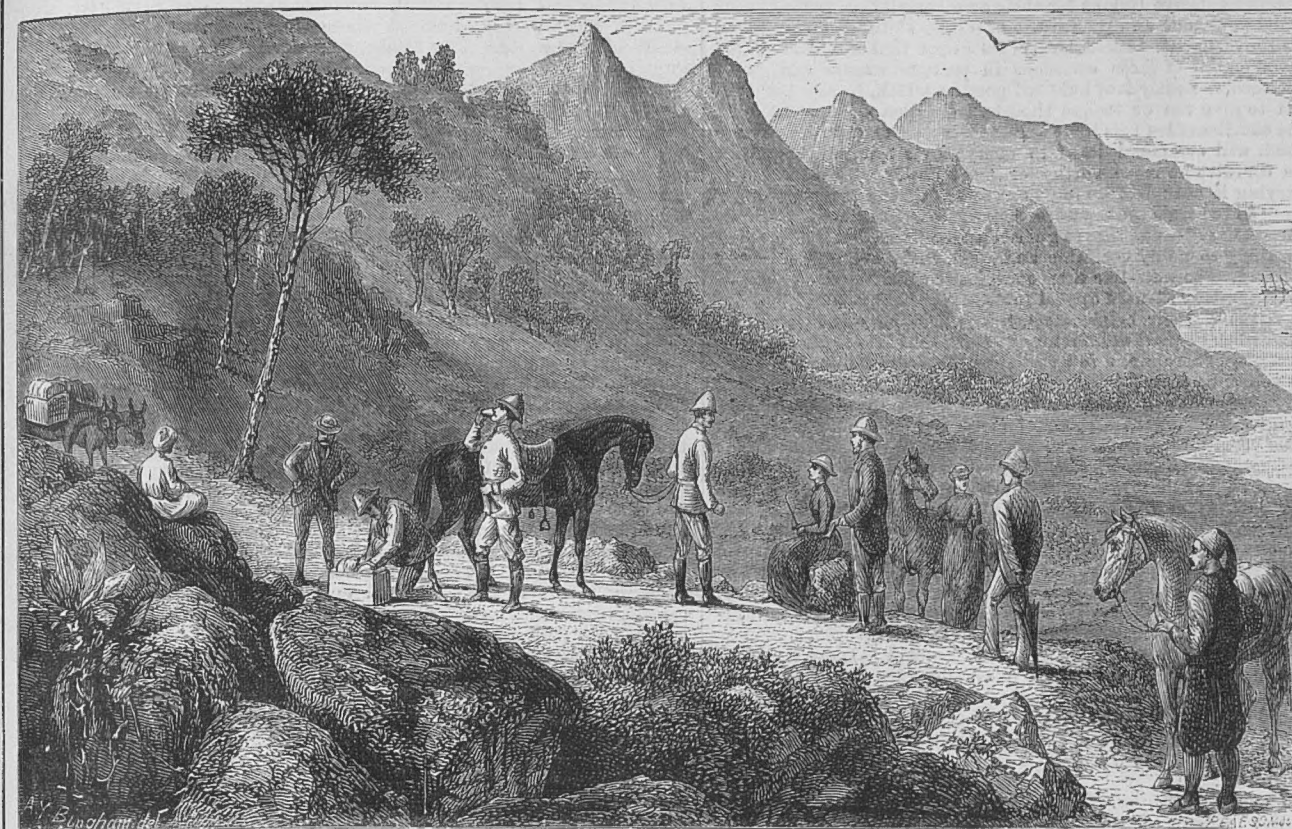
OLD-FASHIONED ENGLISH TERRIERS.

The Book of the Dog.—(Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.)



THE DRAKE: A SPECIMEN OF A THOROUGHbred HORSE EQUAL TO CARRYING SIXTEEN STONE TO HOUNDS.

The Book of the Horse.—(Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.)



"Meeting Sir Garnet Wolseley."—*Sunshine and Storm in the East.*—(Longmans, Green and Co.)



"Story Spinning."—*The Tapestry Room.*—(Macmillan and Co.)

REVIEWS.

R. Caldecott's Picture Books. London: George Routledge and Sons.—Full of quaint fancies and humorous oddities of conception, Mr. Caldecott's illustrations to old nursery stories and kindred subjects for the delight of children have artistic charms altogether apart from their purpose and beyond it. Catching the very spirit of the author's words, the artist realises them to the eye with a thoroughness and completeness very uncommon amongst modern draughtsmen, who are content, as a rule, to give us dry, hard, meaningless studies from models, rather than pictures which animate the author's descriptions. But he does more than this: if the words be quaint, the artist emphasises their quaintness; if satirical, their satire; if humorous, their humour; if pathetic, their pathos; and in the very spirit of the writer lends the conceptions fresh force and spirit. We have two of this series now before us—Goldsmith's "Mad Dog" and the pitiful old ballad of "The Babes in the Wood," which forcibly prove our assertions. Goldsmith's lines will never again be in our memory without Caldecott's sketches. Little Billy Primrose shyly singing the famous elegy to the guitar accompaniment—the mourn-



"Hunting the Moose."—*Animal Life.*—(Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.)

ing dogs—the "good people" listening, each brimful of individual character, and full of action and expression—the Islington scoffers at the man who runs a goodly race to become what they are on their reckless and wicked way to, "the Angel"—the admiring dames—the pretty little reverential damsels—the wretched companions in misfortune brought together by the stocks, towards whom "the man" displays his "kind and gentle heart," &c., are full of the changeful spirit of Goldsmith's lines, now quaintly fanciful, now grotesquely funny; here with a touch of bitter meaning, there awakening at once the tear and smile. To give the reader some idea of these famous sketches, we borrow two. One of the dog which, "to gain some private ends, went mad and bit the man," and the other of the man thus bitten. No collection of holiday gift books can be half as good as it might be without Mr. Caldecott's Picture Books.

The Countries of the World. By Robert Brown, M.A. London, Paris, and New York: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.—This is the fourth volume of this work and by no means the least interesting. The illustrations are excellent and profuse, engraved from highly-finished, conscientiously



"A Japanese Ferry-boat of the Ancien Régime."—*The Countries of the World.*—(Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.)

studied drawings, 317 in number, embracing every variety of subject. The literature is devoted to the Sandwich Islands, New Zealand, Tasmania, Australia (southern and western), the Malay Archipelago, and Japan. We have selected two of the wood engravings, which will be found upon another page, as specimens of the illustrations. One, "A Japanese Ferry-boat of the Ancien Régime," and the other of "A Bush Store in Queensland," a sketch full of life and character. Mr. Brown's style is forcible and clear. He has a happy knack of realising the salient features of places and people in a few vigorous touches, and although his tastes lean rather to the side of the hard, dry facts of scientific research and matter-of-fact observation than to the more picturesque, romantic, and stirring phases of foreign travel, his book is extremely readable and amusing, as well as useful and instructive. Excellent qualities these for gift-books of the more solidly serviceable kind.

Evenings at Home. London: Frederick Warne and Co.—This handy little pocket volume of Dr. Aikin's and Mrs. Barbauld's well-known stories for the young, with its bright, well-drawn coloured illustrations, is sure to be heartily welcomed by the children who are familiar with its long-lived attractiveness.

The Magazine of Art. London, Paris, and New York. Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.—This very attractive, handsomely got up and illustrated volume is one that all students of art, whether amateurs or not, will thoroughly appreciate. It embraces both in its excellent woodcuts and its biographical, practical, and theoretical articles, various associations of decorative and pictorial art and art manufacture of the higher kind, while it records with tolerable fulness some of the chief events of artistic interest belonging to the past year.

The Broad, Broad Ocean, and some of its Inhabitants.—By William Jones, F.S.A. London: F. Warne and Co.—This the latest edition of a now well-known and interesting work will take high rank, if only by virtue of its subject, which young islanders whose country boasts the ocean for its own cannot fail to welcome with eager alacrity. Boys will find it a bright, pleasant book, full of curiously interesting and instructive facts. The illustrations are somewhat feeble.

Her Benny: A Story of Street Life. By Silas K. Hocking. London: F. Warne and Co.—A touching story, full of religious feeling and moral purpose, fairly well told.

A Traveller's True Tale: after the Greek of Lucian of Samosata. By Alfred J. Church, M.A., Head-Master of King Edward's School, Retford, author of "Stories from Homer," &c., with twelve illustrations by C. O. Murray. Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday, 54, Fleet-street, London. 1880.—Mr. Church's busy hand has again been at work, and this time he has laboured out of the beaten track. The author of the book seems to be at the present time one of the most prolific and, we may add, one of the ablest translators of Greek and Latin writers into sound English prose; and the volume before us is a rendering of Lucian's wildly humorous *Vera Historia*. It is strange that the work should be so little known to school-boys, and, perhaps, it might be said also to schoolmasters, for Lucian's possibly unconscious imitators are ever at work. Mr. Church has, for good reasons, curtailed the original, and in places departed from literal translations; but the extravagant fun of the burlesque is retained. We have the account of the great fish, one hundred and eighty-eight miles and four furlongs long—the truthful narrator would not condescend to exaggerate for the sake of half a mile—which swallowed the historian and his boat, with all the crew; and the travels about the island in the fish's interior, are duly described. Mr. Murray's illustrations, caricatures of the antique, are very good, though in regard to the fish he has failed to give much expression to the tremendous countenance. The inhabitants of Lantern City are well drawn, and the Cork-foot Folk is another satisfactory picture.

Stories from the Great Tragedians. (Same author and publishers.)—This book should have been mentioned before the other, perhaps, for it is dated October 11th, and the "Traveller's True Tale" is dated November 8th, but we have already borne witness to the industry of the Head-Master of the Retford King Edward's School. Several ancient stories, of which most schoolboys of the higher classes have a smattering, are here detailed. The translations are near enough to give hints, without being serviceable as "cribs."

The Birthday Book of Quotations and Photograph Album. London: Griffith and Farren.—Tasteful in design and fancy, strongly and handsomely bound, this volume is sure to command the greatest popularity as a gift-book which is always seasonable.

Chit-Chat. By Puck. London: W. Swan Sonnenschein, and Allen, is a pleasant little book enough, but considering its purpose, somewhat odd and incongruous in the things it brings together. It is translated from the Swedish of Richard Gustafsson, by Albert Alberg, with some illustrations, having very various degrees of merit. As a gift book for English children it will hardly displace its more attractive and simpler English rivals, although we hope it may share some of their importance at this genial season of universal gift-giving.

Robin's Carol, and What Came of It. Edited by the Rev. C. Bullock. London: Hand and Heart Publishing Office.—This is an urgent appeal to public charity on behalf of giving a Christmas dinner to very poor children, and an account of dinners already given. The cost per guest is estimated at "about ninepence," for which, we are told, the managers can contrive to supply "meat pies and sandwiches," and, to make the season seem to these poor little ones "like Christmas," plum pudding. The idea was first adopted in 1875, and the first dinner was given in the January of 1876, at the hall of the Field-lane Ragged School. The little guests, assembled with their tickets in front of the building, being cleaned and made tidy for the occasion, were "all looking exceptionally hungry," and while waiting "crouched beneath the doorway to escape the wind," which they, "in their scant clothing," keenly felt. When admitted, the fare was roast beef, vegetables, and plum pudding, supplied in liberal quantities. In 1877 a wider field of exertion opened for the promoters of the institution—for such it has happily become—the Press took it up, commended the idea, and, instead of three or four hundred or more little guests, the number fed was three thousand. Last year the three thousand became ten thousand. The accounts of these dinners, extracted from different sources for republication in this volume, are a little contradictory as to the numbers fed, the sum per head required, and the fare provided, and we should have been pleased to see some systematic account of the money supplied by the subscribers, and the plans adopted for their expenditure. Various ingenious schemes for raising money to be spent on these dinners are described, one being the purchasing from Mr. Bullock, at the cost of eight shillings per hundred, engravings, which, it is said, may be sold for one shilling each. "Assuming," says the page open before us (79) "that each copy only realises a contribution of one shilling, one hundred copies will thus secure £4 12s. toward the expenses," and, adds the writer, "it would be easy for any representative Robin to sell one hundred of these engravings almost anywhere." There is no record in the present volume of the number of engravings purchased on past occasions by

representative Robins, nor of the sums realised by their sale, which should be considerable. Are these engravings ever sold by representative Robins for their own benefit? A profit of four pound twelve on an expenditure of eight shillings seems like a good investment. Incidentally we glean that Mr. Bullock received on one of these occasions in postage stamps and post-office orders nearly four hundred pounds, which, he says, enabled him to give ten or twelve thousand children each a dinner." The excellent idea this little volume advocates so earnestly is one which will commend itself to everybody's sympathy, and we can conceive no more worthy or more kindly task than that of carrying it out; but we must not forget that abuses may creep in—"as where's that palace whereinto foul things sometimes intrude not?"—and that to guard against them, because the idea is a thing so nobly desirable and good, every precaution should be taken. The waif-like little ones, forlorn, half-clad, neglected, and commonly ill-used appeal to us so touchingly and eloquently by virtue of their helplessness, that where help is extended it cannot but be most satisfactory to learn that it is made the very most of. Therefore, a few statistical facts and figures should, we think, be added to the next edition of this appeal. If they only call forth suggestions from those who are practically experienced in the working out of similar plans regularly, and in other directions, they will be worth the trouble involved in their production, and greatly strengthen the appeal made for funds to spread abroad more widely "Robin dinners."

The Great Artists, a series of Illustrated Biographies. London: Sampson Low, Searle, and Rivington.—We have received the two little volumes devoted to William Hogarth and Sir Peter Paul Rubens, the first by Mr. Austin Dobson, the second by Mr. Charles W. Kett. Both are carefully and admirably written, and well worthy their places in what promises to be a very valuable, complete, and interesting series of art biographies.

The Tapestry Room. By Mrs. Molesworth. London: Macmillan & Co.—This is a pretty fairy story for children, told in the simple, earnest way children so readily appreciate and respond to. We have selected one of the eight illustrations for transference to our pages, that which represents the magic story-spinning process in which little Hugh and Jeanne are so deeply interested.

Picturesque Europe. Vol. IV. London, Paris, and New York: Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.—This the last volume fully sustains the artistic value of the now completed work. The illustrations, steel and wood, are of the highest character and full of picturesque beauty.

St. Nicholas Eve, and Other Tales. By Mrs. Rowsell. London: Messrs. Griffith and Farren.—Full of realistic descriptions and distinctive character painting, varied in subject, and interesting in their incidents and plots, Mrs. Rowsell's stories are good in themselves, and very forcibly told.

The Illustrated Book of the Dog. By Vero Shaw, B.A., Cantab. Illustrated with coloured plates drawn from the life. London, Paris, and New York: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.—In our ordinary review pages we have, month by month, recorded our impressions of this admirably got up work, which is now approaching completion. We this week give a specimen engraving, selected from its fifth part, of old-fashioned English terriers. It will shortly form a work which, for completeness, interest, and variety of high-class illustrations, cannot readily be surpassed.

The Book of the Horse. By S. Sidney, Manager of the Agricultural Horse Show. (Same publishers.)—This, one of the most handsome and elaborate works of its kind, is profusely illustrated with richly-coloured plates and wood engravings of great beauty and finish, one of which, "The Drake: a specimen of a thoroughbred horse equal to carrying sixteen stone to hounds," is in merit fairly representative of the whole.

Animal Life, described and illustrated by E. P. Wright, M.D., F.L.S. London: Cassell, Petter and Galpin. No gift, book is more popular with the young than a comprehensive, well-illustrated Natural History, and such this certainly is. Dry technical details are carefully avoided, although the principles governing the scientific classification into kingdoms are still made clear, and the descriptions are at once sufficiently comprehensive for the general reader, and sufficiently accurate in detail for conveying ideas with scientific accuracy. We have selected as specimens of the illustrations, "Tunny fishers at their work"—"Fishing for Halibut." Of the former the author, quoting Quatrefeagis, says:—

"When first we arrived at Soire dell' Isola, we saw this steamer on her way to Favignana, and from that time till we landed on the island, men had been continually at work in fixing the madrague. It was now completed, and some tunnies had already been seen within the first compartments of the apparatus. We had a great desire to witness one of these fishings, of which Joseph Vernet's picture gives a tolerably good idea.

"The reports of our own sailors, whose eyes sparkled at the very mention of the word 'tonnara,' had increased our anxiety to be present on one of these occasions, which are regarded by the inhabitants of the Sicilian Islands in the light of festivals. Signor Bartholini kindly undertook to inform us of the time at which we were to hold ourselves in readiness to join the other boats engaged in the fishing, and we lost no time in obeying his directions. One morning on looking out we saw that flags had been raised on every elevated point of the island to serve as signals for calling together the fishermen of the neighbourhood to take part in the tonnara. Scarcely any, I believe, failed to appear at the common rendezvous. Every barque between Irapani and Mazara had hoisted her sails, and by the break of day, far as the eyes could reach, the sea seems to be covered with a moving fleet of sailing boats, whose hundred broad lateen sails, converging to one and the same point, presented the most picturesque appearance. The Santa Rosalia was soon in the midst of this numerous flotilla; and by the energetic efforts of our sailors, whose strength and activity seemed to be doubled for the occasion, we reached the madrague in good time to follow all the scenes of the sanguinary drama which was about to be enacted.

"If any of our readers should deem these expressions exaggerated, we would beg them to come and judge for themselves, and embark with us on board one of those large boats, which in the midst of the sea have combined to enclose a space of about one hundred square feet. Between 500 and 600 tunnies, impelled from chamber to chamber by the valves which close behind them, have at length reached the last compartment, or the chamber of death. This enclosure is provided with a movable floor formed of netting, which can be raised from the bottom to the surface of the water by means of ropes. All night long men have been labouring to lift the huge apparatus, little by little, and now each of its margins rest upon one of the sides formed by the boats. Facing us is the proprietor of the fishery, surrounded by his staff and by a charming group of ladies who have come from Palermo to witness the spectacle which is about to be exhibited. To the right and to the left are stationed the two principal boats which convey the band of fishermen. These boats, which are entirely empty, lie ready to receive their cargo, the only thing that breaks the even line of their decks being a long beam, which passes from one extremity to the other, and leaves a narrow sort of gangway on the edge

of the boat, where stand at least two hundred fishermen, who have come, in some cases, from a distance of more than fifty miles to take part in this exciting sport. Half naked, with deeply bronzed limbs, these athletic men stand side by side, all awaiting, with the same eager impatience, the moment of action. Their eyes are sparkling beneath their scarlet phrygian caps; their hands are grasping the instruments of death—broad, sharp, and cutting hooks, which are either inserted into a long pole, or fitted to the end of a short massive handle, which is deeply cut to enable the hand to obtain a firmer hold of the weapon. In the midst of the enclosure, a little black rowing boat, manned by two oarsmen, contains the master-fisherman, from whom emanate all orders, and who is ever at hand to encourage and lead on the workmen, or to carry reinforcements from side to side as they may be needed.

"During all this time the capstans, which are fixed at the extremities of the net, have never ceased turning, and as the moving floor of the corpon gradually rises the tunnies begin to appear, and on looking through the transparent water we see the fish darting uneasily from one side to the other of a vast enclosure in which they are imprisoned. Some of them rise to the surface, or even spring out of the water; but woe be to those who rise near one of the boats! for no sooner does the fish appear than hands of iron are stretched forth to bury their sharpened points in its sides. Even though they may be wounded, the fish generally escape from the first attack, for being full of life and strength, and in the enjoyment of entire liberty of motion within the large basin that encloses them, they tear themselves from the hands of their enemies, leaving only a few bleeding shreds of flesh attached to the hooks; but still the capstan turns remorselessly to the modulated songs of the sailors, and the net rises higher and higher. The master-fisherman is always at hand in his little boat to drive the tunnies toward the edges of the net. Wounds are now dealt on every side, and soon some fish, more deeply struck than his companions, slackens his course, showing from time to time his broad silvery sides, along which the black blood is streaming forth. At every new stroke his resistance diminishes, and soon the victim pauses for an instant; but that instant is enough; a dozen hooks are at once buried in his flesh, a dozen arms are bent to lift him to the surface of the water; in vain the skin has given way; each hook that loses its hold is raised on high only to be buried still deeper in the quivering flesh, and soon the unfortunate animal is drawn to the side of the boat. In another moment he is seized by two men, who, each grasping one of his large pectoral fins, lift him to the beam, which is placed behind them, and throw him into the hold.

"But the net is always remorselessly rising, and now the entire shoal of tunnies is exposed to view. Pressed close to one another, these monster fishes are throwing themselves in despair against the flexible walls of the corpon; at one moment showing their black yellow-spotted backs; at another moment cleaving the surface of the water with their large crescent-shaped fins. Here and there a few sword-fish, with their long pointed snouts, may be seen interspersed among the tunnies. Animated by the sight of the victims which lie exposed to their attack, the sailors strike with redoubled force, and the fishing becomes a massacre. One can no longer individualise the separate actors in this drama; the serried crowd seems to be composed of nothing but violently moving heads, bleeding arms, which rise and fall, and harpoons, which flash and cross one another as they are hurled against the victims. All eyes are sparkling, all lips are uttering cries of triumph, clamour, and encouragement. The waters of the corpon are tinged with blood, and every moment another fish has been hurled across the beam; the dead and the dying lie heaped together in such vast multitudes that the hulls of the boats are almost hidden beneath the load of their half living cargoes.

"After two hours of carnage, symptoms of exhaustion begin to appear; the tunnies come but rarely to the surface, and at length their enemies begin to lose patience. A boat is then loosened from either side of the enclosure, and the two principal barques are brought within half their former distance of one another. The capstans are now again brought into play, the impatient fishermen all lend a hand, and now the hooks are inserted in the meshes of the net; but these efforts, which are somewhat irregular, do not at first produce any great results. Soon, however, the master-fisherman's whistle is heard; at once the men break into a song of measured rhythm, their movements become more regular and higher. Soon it is almost on a level with the surface of the water, and now it is time to resume the labour in earnest. The master-fisherman's boat now, for the first time, takes an active part in the labours of the day. Its crew of picked men pursue the tunnies within the narrow limits to which they are now circumscribed, and striking them with long harpoons, urge them forward against the hooks, which are projected from the boats, and which speedily secure them.

CHRISTMAS ANNUALS.

The *Belgrave Annual* opens with a powerful and well-written story by Mr. F. W. Robinson, entitled "Martha Jacobi," and has several other good contributions. A story by Mr. Dutton Cook, called "The Prima Donna's Husband," which deals with the intrigues of Mlle. Félicité Descharmes and the imperturbable villain her husband, in an exciting and well sustained tale. "A Brighton Delilah," is one of the last contributions to magazine literature of a writer who will be missed from many circles, the late Gerald Dixon. Mr. James Payn, though always amusing—there is no better writer of short stories than Mr. Payn at his best—is less happy than usual in "A Charade and its Consequences," and it is to be regretted that he, a writer who ought to know better, should echo the charge against dramatic critics of being bribed with champagne. From a writer of lower position such a vulgar slur on the straightforwardness of a hard-working and much-abused body of gentlemen might be passed by with contempt. The illustrations are well drawn and engraved.

London Society.—This annual loses much of its interest from the fact that the names of the writers are not given. Most readers like to know who their author is, and when the artists' names are published, why should the writers' be forced into anonymity? "The Ghost in the Bank of England," the contribution which gives its name to the number, is a capital ghost story, out of the well-worn groove of such fiction, and there are a dozen others papers, including some verses by the late Mortimer Collins on "The Squire's Wig." There is a sad pleasure in meeting the once familiar name in these pages where it used to be so frequently a welcome imprint. The other stories are of a sort likely to amuse readers of this popular periodical, and here again there is a marked improvement in the illustrations. Miss M. Ellen Edwards' graceful pencil is twice brought into requisition, Mr. Alfred Thompson well illustrates a humorous story called "My Landress's Revenge, and Mr. Furniss makes a striking picture to illustrate "My Adventure," the story of how a girl was locked in a church through the slamming of the door, and of the adventures which followed. The tale, we believe, is founded on fact, but the reality was even more

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OUR CAPTIOUS CRITIC.

THE everlasting grievance of international copyright seems to be quietly soothing itself into a state of inoffensiveness, through the amiable union of various authors dating their births from both sides of the Atlantic. Mr. Dion Boucicault showed some pains in securing the copyright of *Rescued*, which some time since flickered at the Adelphi Theatre and finally went out. The performance by which the English copyright was secured must have, to say the least of it, been a novel affair. At that temple of amateurs, the King's Cross Theatre, the drama in question was there enacted by a group of scene-shifters and "supers." No such precaution has been taken, I believe, by Mr. Bronson Howard in the protection of his various pieces. Some years ago the town was delighted with the mercurial dash of Mr. Wyndham, in a comedy called *Brighton*. This was a very admirable adaptation of a panoramic kind of piece known in the provinces of America as *Saratoga*. The author was Mr. Bronson Howard, and the adapter, Mr. Frank Marshall. Mr. Howard, encouraged by his success in England and his personal popularity with Englishmen, next favoured the town with an original comedy, entitled *Truth*, which highly entertained a number of Her Majesty's subjects at the Criterion for many a night. I do not



This is Bronson Howard
(American papers please copy)

know whether Mr. Howard sought the aid of an adapter in his comedy of *Truth*, but his last bow to the British public has been made in the arms of Mr. James Albery. *The Old Love and the New*, which was produced at the Court Theatre on Monday must have been in considerable need of an English hand to make it possible in an English theatre. Even now there are portions of it, and characters supplied with sentiments that are quite foreign to the London playgoer. This must have been a difficult point to deal with, considering that the scenes are placed in London and Paris. However, no one is more capable of overcoming rocks and shoals of this kind than the author of *Pink Dominoes*, and after a little cutting no doubt Mr. Howard's American offspring wears its English clothes with becoming grace. The manager of the Court Theatre deserves a success, and I am inclined to think that he has now got one. The play, which is a peculiar one, ever on the borderland of *London Journal* sensationalism, without ever once touching that dangerous ground, is mounted with care and elaboration. It has given some brilliant opportunities to more than one of the excellent company that Mr. Wilson Barrett has got about him. Miss Amy Roselle has proved herself a thorough mistress of the best form of emotional acting in at least one long and trying scene, when, as the wife of one, she confesses her affection for another who is wounded and nigh dead. Mr. Coghlan plays the husband with the most commendable reserve. Miss Winifred Emery has a bright part that is not quite understood by an English audience, because it is so thoroughly American in style and sentiment. There is



very little humorous interest in the play, but what there is falls to the lot of Mr. G. W. Anson, who gives a typical picture of the accepted form of a cool-headed, warm-hearted American merchant. There is a capital duel scene, in which Mr. Arthur Dacre, as an English officer bearing the Victoria Cross, falls at



the point of the sword of Le Comte de Carojac—a part played by that prince of stage swordsmen, Mr. Edmund Leathes. Monday was a distressing night for play actors, and playgoers, the thick London fog penetrated every crevice of

the theatres, and in the larger houses it was difficult, I believe, to discern the features of the actors or the colours of their costumes. Mr. Irving as Shylock felt his way about the stage, looking in vain for that pound of flesh, and in the final scene of the *Merchant of Venice* the soft moonbeams were very irrelevantly referred to and bright pictures described by fond lovers regarding "such a night as this." I believe Mr. Warner as Coupeau could scarcely find the brandy bottle in his great delirium scene in *Drink*. By the way, a bill poster has played a very ingenious practical joke on Mr. Warner—he has had to



An abridged edition of "Drink"

post a quantity of portraits of the stalwart Warner (who stands some six feet in his stockings). The posters are life size and in three sheets; where they did not exactly fit Mr. Bill Poster has quietly omitted the centre sheet altogether. The effect is highly ludicrous and I should fancy Mr. B. P. either meant humour or was "three sheets in the wind" on the particular occasion.

Mr. Ch. J. Bishenden has favoured my Editor with his autograph—to say nothing of a letter. I have culled the former, and herewith print it for the delectation of those duchesses and countesses (mentioned in C. J. B.'s letter) who are burning to place it in their albums. Ah! Mr. Ch. J. Bishenden, don't be

Ch. J. Bishenden
The "Celebrated" One's Autograph.

angry; it is near Christmas, and we ought to be full of gentle feelings for a time at least. May you ever be "The Celebrated Bass," and sing just when it pleases you, either in London or Hemel Hempstead, Herts, which ever of the two important villages best suits you. May tradesmen continue to make fortunes in using your name; may your egotism never grow less, and may you some day forgive so insignificant a creature as the Captious Critic.

MR. TOM SMITH'S BONBONS, COSAQUES, &c.—In the course of a few years Mr. Tom Smith has made so great a reputation for his Christmas issues, that to many little ones a child's party would seem only half the real thing without a supply of these welcome bonbons. This year the glorious big boxes full of crackers are as amusing and well-contrived as usual. There are helmets, head-dresses, breastplates, ornaments, mottoes, sweets, of course, and all sorts of interesting things to be found when the desperate deed of pulling the gorgeous toys in two has been accomplished, with much blinking of bright eyes and many exclamations of terror. Mr. Tom Smith has done what the little ones expected of him.

MR. STEDMAN has resigned his position as Director of the Music at St. Andrew's Church, Tavistock-place, and henceforth neither Mr. Henry Parker, Mr. King Hall, Mr. Stedman's choir boys, or the gentlemen of his choir and orchestra will take any part in the rendering of the Oratorios there.

THE AMATEURS.

BLACKHEATH DRAMATIC CLUB.

THE Blackheath Dramatic Club gave a performance on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday, the 15th and 16th inst., at the Concert Hall, Blackheath Rink. On Tuesday, the evening I attended, the hall was filled to overflowing with a fashionable and enthusiastic audience, to witness George Colman's somewhat antiquated yet very amusing comedy of *The Poor Gentleman*. The Blackheath Club has already won itself a name in the amateur histrionic world for the care and pains it bestows upon the work it takes in hand, and also for the large sum of money, over £1,000, which it has paid to various charities as the result of its labours. On the evening in question the Club was fortunate enough to secure the assistance of the Blackheath Orchestral Society, under the conductorship of Mr. A. Burnett, which added in no small measure to the enjoyment of the evening. The orchestra was a large one, consisting of 30 performers. I must compliment them on the efficient way in which they performed their task, and I must not omit a word of very hearty praise to their able conductor. The comedy was produced under the superintendence of Mr. Coe. Mr. Charles West played capital as the argumentative Sir Robert Bramble, and while taxing the risible faculties of his audience to the utmost in his scenes with Dobbins and Worthington, was yet able to touch their feelings of pity when taking leave of his nephew before the duel. Mr. A. C. Latter (Sir Charles) was much better in the earlier scenes than in those towards the end of the play. The part of Worthington must ever be a heavy, thankless task, and so Mr. Oliver appeared to find it; he made it, or it made him melancholy, in the extreme. Mr. P. A. Davis contented himself with the small and colourless part of Frederick Bramble, and did all that was to be done with it. His whiskers, however, seemed somewhat out of place. Mr. J. R. Taylor, as Ollapod, the martial apothecary, was the life and soul of the piece; he played with a true appreciation of the author's intentions, and, while carefully avoiding exaggeration, contrived to cause a vast amount of amusement by legitimate means. Another very carefully played character was that of Corporal Foss, and Mr. F. Upton, the exponent, is entitled to warm commendation. The part of Humphrey Dobbins was to have been filled by Mr. G. W. Clarke; but on account of a domestic affliction that gentleman was unable to appear, and the part was, therefore, taken at very short notice by the secretary of the society, Mr. C. D. Davies. The stoical old body-servant could not have been in better hands. Mr. J. Turner appeared in the small part of Farmer Harrowby, which he played with commendable care; and Mr. W. Webster as the clodhopper, Stephen, caused considerable amusement, his song in the second act receiving a well-merited encore. Mr. F. Taylor was the valet. Miss Blanche Henri played prettily as Emily Worthington, but the part was not one to allow much scope for her talent. Miss Miller's Miss Lucretia MacTab was in every way excellent. The whole time she was on the stage the audience were in roars of laughter. Her scene with Ollapod in the second act may be especially mentioned. The small parts

of Dame Harrowby and Mary were undertaken by Miss Kate Hodson and Miss Robson. Most of the characters were repeatedly recalled.

THE "ERRATICS" gave their nineteenth performance at St. George's Hall, on Saturday, the 13th inst., the profits, as usual, being devoted to a deserving case of charity. The play selected for representation was Mr. Gilbert's *Palace of Truth*, with a cast as follows:—King Phanor, Major F. Boynton; Prince Philamir, Mr. J. S. Young; Chrysal, Mr. W. Romaine-Walker; Zoram, Captain W. Conyers-D'Arey; Aristaeus, Mr. L. Lawrence; Gélanor, Mr. John Renton; Queen Altamire, Miss Zoe Bland; Princess Zeolide, Miss Lucy Williams (by kind permission of Messrs. Alfred Reed and Corney Grain); Mirza, Miss Giulietta Arditi; Palmis, Miss Annie Woodzell; Azéma, Miss Plowden. An excellent all round performance was given, and special mention may be made of Miss Arditi, whose acting as Mirza was exceedingly clever. Miss Lucy Williams, who assisted the club on this as well as on former occasions, was thoroughly at home in the character of the Princess Zeolide, giving full point to her lines, and acting the part with much grace and appreciation. Miss Williams also appeared in a new one-part comedietta, entitled *An Offer of Marriage*, with considerable success. An amateur overture, under the direction of Mr. A. Dean, played a selection of music during the evening in a very creditable manner.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.

THE seasonable novelty at St. George's Hall has made its appearance rather early this year, the new after-piece, *A Christmas Stocking*, written by Mr. Gilbert à Beckett, and musically illustrated by Mr. King Hall, having been produced on Wednesday evening. Of course the author has had special consideration for the tastes of the younger—but at this period by no means the least important—section of the pleasure-seeking community, the result being a dainty, quaint, and humorous little composition, such as cannot fail to please little visitors and tickle the humorous susceptibilities of their elders into the bargain. The main idea, which is based upon the vivification of toys, is not altogether a new one, but it is cleverly managed, and combines that fusion of reality with romance which is so dear to the childish mind. On Christmas Eve, so the story goes, Little Queenie commits a transgression by examining the contents of a stocking, placed to receive the gifts of Santa Claus; and as she has just read in a book of fairy tales that children who peep in the stockings over night shall be haunted till the morning light, it is not at all surprising that she should speedily find herself in Fancy Land, face to face with enormously overgrown replicas of the toys she had surreptitiously examined: A Jack-in-the-Box, the Beadle in Punch and Judy, the Spirit of the Shilling Colour Box, and the Prince off a Twelfth Cake. Moreover, she discovers that by a touch of a holly-sprig she can bring these toys all to life, and restore them to their former state by the application of a branch of mistletoe. Although at first entertaining and pleasant companions, they all become tiresome and unpleasant in the extreme when imbued with life—especially that dreadful practical joker, Jack-in-the-Box, whose sole delight is to annoy and frighten people. He sets all the toys going the wrong way, steals the holly-sprig, and brings a whole

army of soldiers and a complete zoological collection into active existence; the Prince turns out to be a "crutch and toothpick" of the first water; and at last Little Queenie is so perplexed and disappointed that she calls upon the mystic powers of the Druidical plant, and the figures become toys once more—just as she awakens from slumbering in her chair. This is all the story, but a good deal of it is rendered intensely funny by the actors. Mr. Alfred Bishop, in a sort of preposterous crinoline, and the most ridiculous of "make-ups," would call a smile to the placid face of the Sphinx as Jack-in-the-Box; and Mr. Alfred Reed's portrait of the Beadle, who'd "give worlds to find out what it's all about," is extremely diverting. Mr. Corney Grain as the Prince—careful of the fragile nature of his ankles in his normal condition, and as careful of the ordinances of "society" in his vivified shape—gives zest to the entertainment; Miss Lucy Williams, as the Spirit of the Colour Box, personates a character not very distinctly drawn, with much cleverness; and Miss Edith Brandon as a ten-year-old child is—so far as appearance goes—a useful assistant. Mr. King Hall's music is pleasing and artistic, but there is hardly enough opportunity for the composer to air his abilities. The best number is Little Queenie's song, "How I Long'd For Fancy Land," a tuneful and musician-like ballad. Mr. Corney Grain promises a new musical sketch, *Master Tommy's "At Home,"* for Boxing Day.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.—To the list of publishers of attractive Christmas cards must be added the names of Mr. Harding, of Piccadilly, who issues sporting subjects, sketches of the hunting-field, racecourses, &c.; and Mr. Sulmon, who offers a large choice of very pretty little coloured pictures.

MR. HICKS'S HARRIERS.—On Friday morning, November 28, Mr. Hicks brought his harriers over to afford a day's sport to this side of the county. The meet was Fordham Church, and after waiting a short time to allow the frost to get out of the ground, the word was given for the Squire's own land on Dunstall field, when Mr. Robins soon found them a good hare. Owing to the land carrying after the frost, the scent was very bad in places, but the merry pack kept working on, and brought her down in the open, after a good hunting run of an hour and a half. The word was then given for lunch at Mr. Robins's, but before the company could get on to the road another hare jumped up, and after running a ring over Dunstall field, went off on to the low ground, and bent to right behind the old hall, and was lost in the wood at the north end of the village. It is said that during the latter part of the run some horsemen rode into nursery gardens. It is to be hoped this is not the case, and, if it is, that it will never occur again. It is known to all who go out with this little pack how anxious the Squire is to check all unnecessary damage, and, as a rule, he is successful; but we would venture to warn all who take advantage of the sport he provides for the district that if they will not, one and all, support him in this, one of two things are not unlikely to happen: either the place of meeting must be made known only to those whose lands are hunted over, or (what we should regret still more) the pack given up altogether, at least on this side of Newmarket. We hope that what is said will be taken in good part, and honestly acted up to.—*Cambridge Chronicle*, Dec. 6, 1879.

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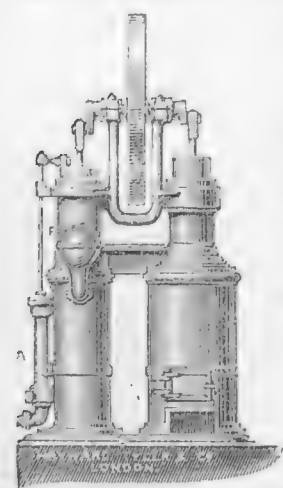
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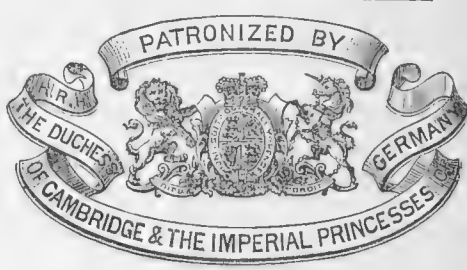
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

DRAMATIC.
H. E. L.—Mr. W. G. Wills produced his historical drama, *Buckingham*, at
the Olympic Theatre in November, 1876.
A FRIEND.—Mr. Henry Irving was born at Keinton in Somersetshire on
Feb. 6th, 1838.
A. W.—1. Mrs. M. F. Murray is a daughter of the late Henry Hughes.
She made her first appearance in 1851 at the Guildford Theatre as *Sophia*
in the *Rendezvous*, the oldest of all our old stock pieces. 2. No. Mrs.
Leigh Murray.
F. G.—Mr. Kendal's real name is Grimston.
ALFRED HIDE.—It must still be *Hide* and seek, for we have been unable to
find the information you require.
B.—Yes. Mr. Macready played a part called *Strafford* in a tragedy bearing
the same name, which was well received at Covent Garden Theatre.
A PROVINCIAL PLAYGOER.—The failure is readily enough accounted for.
The first and most attractive company was a very costly one; the second,
comparatively very cheap. The first swallowed the profits on their earnings
and left the poor manager bare; the second received fairly good salaries,
which left a margin of profit even with comparatively poor houses.
F. BASIL.—Mr. Crouther married Miss Vincent when she was manageress of
the Victoria Theatre, where he was then playing as "a star." He displayed
signs of insanity on the very day of the wedding, and was soon after
confined in a lunatic asylum. He survived his wife.
SANDY.—Mr. Talbot was amongst the few who escaped when the Princess
Alice went down.
P. F. W.—Paul Kelleno, the clown, died on November 11th, 1857.
F. GRANT.—Mrs. S. Phelps died in 1867.
S. V. B.—The admission to an Amateur Entertainment in an unlicensed
building must be by ticket. No money may be taken at the doors.
EGYPTIAN.—If your friend saw the lady on the stage thirty years ago it
must have been as a child in arms. Her present age we do not know, but
it cannot be more than thirty-three or four.

ATHLETICS.
H. D. GILBERT.—Reference to "Exon's" article will enable you to obtain
the information you require.

BILLIARDS.
T. H. KEELEIGH.—John Roberts, senior, was born in Liverpool on June 15,
1823; W. Cook on June 15, 1849, at Sandy, Beds; John Roberts, junior,
at Ardwick, Manchester, August, 1847; and Joseph Bennett at Town
Malling, Kent, during the year 1841, but the exact day we cannot give you
this week.

SKATING.
FROSTBOUND.—Mr. J. D. Digby, of Cambridge, will give you every informa-
tion, and a letter thus addressed will reach him.

MISCELLANEOUS.
T. E. A.—1. The grace is attributed to Dr. Gibbons, and runs:
"Some have meat and cannot eat,
Some can eat but have no meat,
We have appetite and food,
Bless the Author of all good."
These lines suggest at once the grace written by Burns, running:
"Some have meat wha canna eat,
And some nae meat that want it;
But I hae meat, and I can eat,
And sae the Lord be thankit."
2. We have never met with such lines. They are not in our collected
edition of his works.
D. G.—John Beattie, a travelling lecturer on mesmerism, and afterwards an
itinerant photographer.
COLBRAND.—Autographs of Archbishop Cranmer, being very few and seldom
met with, are doubtless valuable, but we cannot inform you what price
they would command.
M. C.—The first coffee-house of which we have any notice was opened at
Oxford by a Jew named Jacob, in 1650.
OLD FOLK.—The ancient practice of galloping horses on St. Stephen's day
(December 26th) until they perspired, and then, bleeding them, has been
traced back to the Danes.
MARRYATTING.—The crow's nest is a kind of sentry box on the maintop
mast cross-trees, or main topgallant cross-trees, for sheltering the look-
out man on board a whaling vessel.
L. D. G.—The palium was a large square woollen cloak of great amplitude
worn by the ancient Greeks. It was large enough to cover the entire
person, and was fastened at the shoulder or throat by a fibula, brooch,
or buckle. "It was sometimes embroidered, but more often its ornament
was a simple border."
M. P.—No, in Scotland. The Edinburgh council adopted an act for closing
taverns after ten o'clock, in 1704. The act, moreover, decreed that all
persons "harboured in them" after that hour should be punished.
E. D. G.—It was Dr. Lardner who retorted, by asking if a dog was without
understanding, how it could be taught to understand. A question to
which it is not easy to find a reply.
F. YOUNG.—1. Yes. 2. The Floral Hall was opened in May, 1861.
GEORGE HUNT.—Write to the Editor of the *British Journal of Photography*,
York Street, Covent Garden.
HIGHLANDER.—The subject has been one of frequent controversy, but all
the evidence appears to substantiate the statement we made in our reply.
In 1573 the Highlanders wore a mantle and skirt saffroned in the Irish
manner, as we learn from Lindsay, of Pitcottie, and later authorities
mention the same clothing. It is true that Taylor, the water-poet,
appears to refer to the wearing of plaids in Scotland, but it is not until
the last century that the clan-tartans are distinctly indicated.
ROBERT HARE.—It was translated from the French in America, retranslated
into French after the original author's death in Paris, and has since been
translated from the French translation back into English. Our informant
adds that these repeated translations have resulted in something almost
entirely unlike the original.

THE ILLUSTRATED
Sporting and Dramatic News.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1879.

WINNING SIRES IN 1879.—No. I.

HOWEVER much certain individuals, claiming to be
thoroughly "practical" men in the conduct of their racing
affairs, may affect contempt of pedigrees, and register
themselves as disciples of the doctrine of chances, the
role thus assumed is a very difficult one to sustain, and it
may be doubted whether avowed scoffers at theory in
breeding do not frequently find themselves "pulled up
short" by the inexorable logic of facts and figures. They
would not, of course, be inclined to admit the soft im-
peachment, but it is nevertheless true that you may listen
to their avowals of disbelief in one breath, while in the
next they will be found discussing this or that cross or the
merits of this or that strain with all due solemnity. And,
as in matters of religion, many more reputed atheists are
believed to exist than actually come under that denomina-
tion, so in breeding for the turf do we find but few really
uninfluenced by considerations of "fashion" in their pur-
chases of young stock. It is almost needless to point out
that "fashion" is the outcome of success, and that it in-
duces a following quite as considerable in the pedigree line
as in other departments where its influence is perceptible.
Otherwise we should not every season be witnesses of ap-
parently high class yearlings walked round the ring with-
out eliciting a bid, not on account of faults in conforma-
tion, but simply for the reason that they are the produce
of obscure sires and dams. We do not find our "sceptic"
coming to the rescue of those waifs and strays, out of
which may occasionally be picked up a diamond in the
rough; but, on the other hand, their frequent failure to
realise the predictions of those who affect to believe that
"there is nothing in breeding" silently testifies to the
existence of an exactly opposite state of things. There
are plenty, we fear, who regard their horses in the light of
mere skittles or packs of cards, but in the selection, even of
these, in most cases some regard is had to the antecedents
of their progenitors; in short, whatever men may
profess out of mere bravado, most of them are very well
aware that they cannot afford not to be guided in some
degree by the birth and parentage of their "counters" in
the great game of turf speculation. We do not envy the
feelings of the so-called sportsman who can find no
delight save in the heat and toil of the actual racing round,
and who can derive neither amusement nor instruction
from those tell-tale tables compiled at the close of each
season, disclosing many of the secrets of success on
the turf to minds bent on giving due consideration to the
examples and warnings therein contained. Statistics are
too often voted dry and uninteresting, and are "shunted"
accordingly; but from among those relating to "winning
sires" much that is profitable should be gained. Returns
of successful owners and jockeys may be passed lightly
over as "part and parcel of the past"; but it is not so in
the case of those relating to new sources of production, on
which the future has a manifest and all-engrossing claim.
Next month will see the first foals of the season dropped,
and breeders are not unnaturally casting about for suit-
able alliances, on which so much of their prestige as
well as their prosperity depends; and there is a good deal
to be done in fairly weighing the merits of rivals, and of
realising the advantages and drawbacks attendant upon
this or that alliance. This applies, of course, to breeders
for private use with quite as much force as to producers
for public sale; but outside and beyond the pale of these,
there are many persons to the full as deeply interested in
crosses, nicks, and other arcana of breeding, who never
owned a brood mare in their lives, but derive their enjoy-
ment of racing from watching results of certain fusions of

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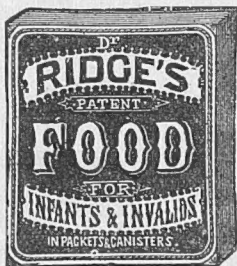
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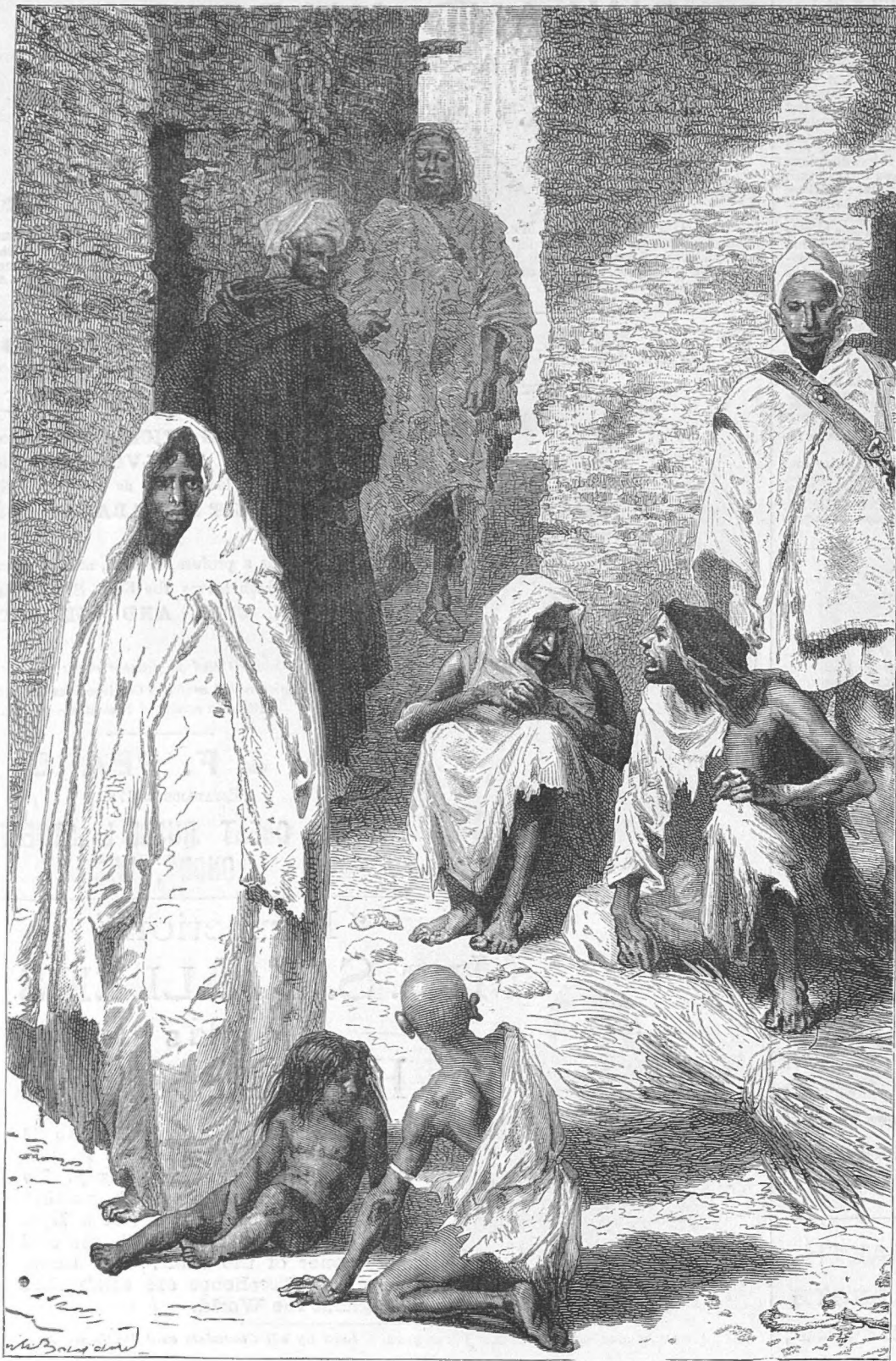
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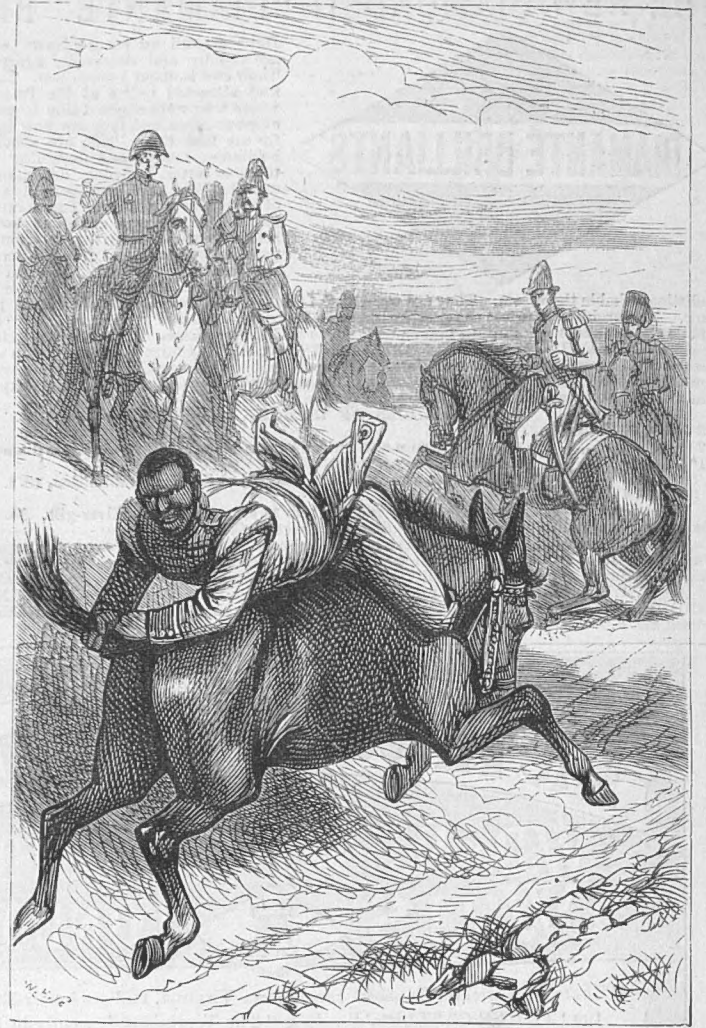
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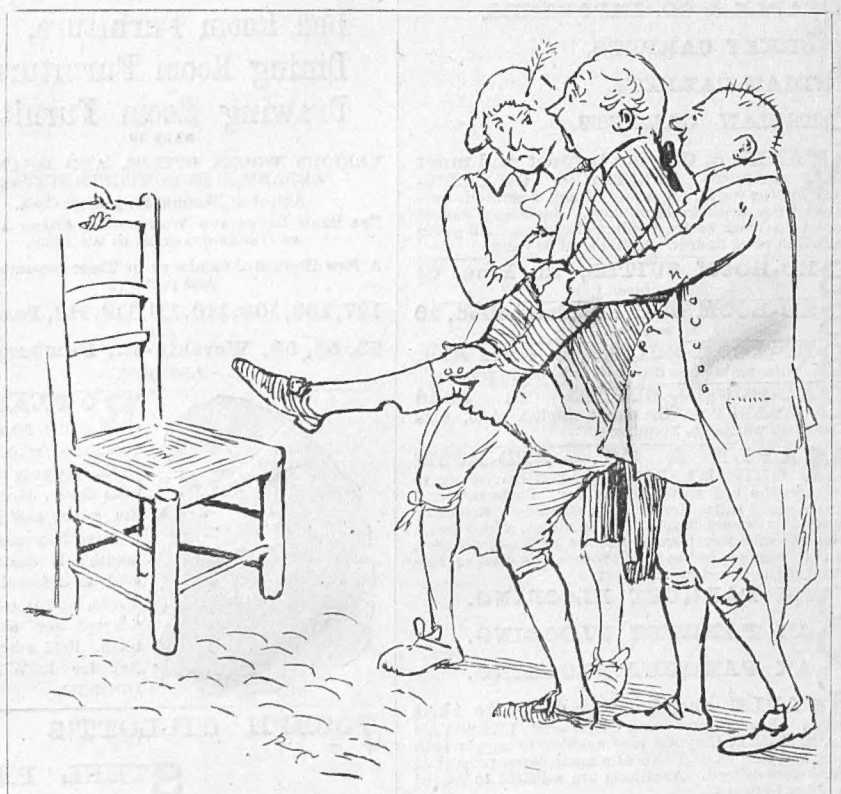
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